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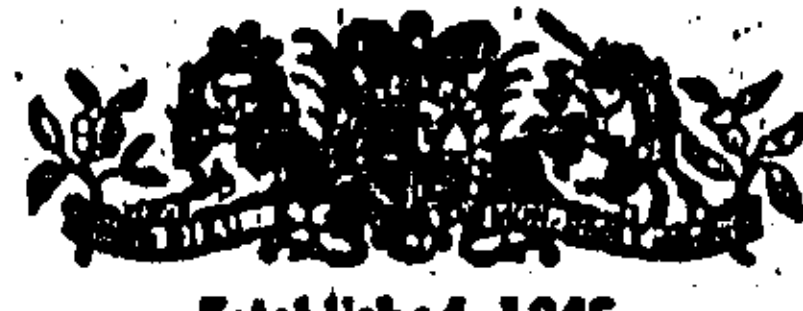
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COMMENT OF THE DAY

ASIAN SOLIDARITY

ONE of the aims of Communism in Asia appears to be an attempt to usurp credit for the Bandung spirit which solidified the aims of many of the Afro-Asian nations.

The Bandung conference was called together by governments which are non-Communist, but ever since it was held the Communists have been trying to wrest it to their advantage and a new attempt is being made at the present time.

At the end of this month a so-called Afro-Asian solidarity conference is to be held in Cairo.

This conference will not be a governmental one and those attending will for the most part be delegates of "Asian solidarity committees" in different countries. The network of these committees exists throughout Asia and some of them are successors to former Communist-inspired peace committees.

In Background

OSTENSIBLY the committees have a comprehensive membership aimed at enlisting members of parliament, writers, university professors and intellectuals while the Communists keep in the background.

But in many of the countries they succeed in harmonising the pronouncements of solidarity committees with tactics of the Communist Party. True, not all solidarity committees allow themselves to be used in this way and many of their members have no desire to play the Communist game and they are genuine nationalists.

Thus tension exists within the Asian solidarity movement and this may be reflected in the coming conference.

Preliminary

AS a preliminary to the full meeting this month preparatory talks were held in Cairo in October. The Egyptian Government has taken so much interest in its proceedings that it has offered to pay travelling expenses and subsistence of delegates coming to the main conference.

Egypt is not showing this generosity without purpose. Obviously it hopes to manipulate the conference into a propaganda demonstration in Egypt's favour and it will be directed against her competitors for leadership of the Arab world by trying to represent these as renegades of nationalism.

If Egypt is trying to use the conference for its national purposes, the Communists will try to use both Egypt and the conference for their own ends.

Main Issues

ONE of the main issues will be the definition of the conference's status as Communist propaganda is trying to spread the impression that it is in some unspecified way linked with the Bandung conference, or is an extension of it.

This is fabrication but the Communist aim is to give it prestige by representing it as more than a coming-together of delegates of self-appointed committees.

The standing of an unofficial meeting of this kind depends really upon what it does. If its members act responsibly, they will gain prestige, whatever the origin of the conference. But if they allow themselves to be manipulated, no amount of propaganda can establish their reputation.

Therefore the proceedings at Cairo will need to be studied sympathetically, but also vigilantly and in detail.

A-WEAPONS FOR NATO ALLIES

American Offer Not Received So Warmly By Norway & Denmark

Paris, Dec. 16.

The United States today offered to supply nuclear warheads to Western Europe to strengthen allied defence against Communist aggression.

The American offer was spelled out to the Nato summit conference by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles this afternoon after President Eisenhower had reaffirmed to the 14 Nato powers that America would aid "with all appropriate force" any Nato member that was the victim of armed attack.

US Custody

Explaining the nuclear warheads offer, Dulles told the conference "within this stockpile system nuclear warheads would be placed under US custody in accordance with Nato defensive planning and in agreement with the nations directly concerned."

He continued "in the event of hostilities, nuclear warheads would be released to the appropriate Nato Supreme Allied Commander for employment by nuclear-capable Nato forces."

By written agreement, the Nato Supreme Commander always is an American.

There was no immediate comment from the European statesmen on this offer because all speeches delivered at this afternoon's opening session were prepared in advance.

Cold War Talks

But the Prime Ministers of both Norway and Denmark urged in their addresses that Nato should re-examine the whole question of stationing missiles in Europe and should use this breathing spell to re-open cold war talks with the Soviets.

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of West Germany, another country that is reluctant to have missiles or nuclear warheads stockpiled on its territory, also suggested that this question should be re-studied.

But Adenauer told newsmen afterwards he was "deeply impressed" by the President's "very firm and heartening speech."

He described the pledge to come to Europe's aid as "an excellent piece of state-manship."—United Press.

Denmark Says...

Let's Try Disarmament Talks

Paris, Dec. 16.

Mr Hans Christian Hansen, Danish Prime Minister, told the Nato summit meeting today that, in common with Norway, Denmark would not allow stockpiling of atomic warheads or the construction of rocket launching sites on her territory.

Mr Hansen supported the proposal made at this afternoon's session by the Norwegian Prime Minister that any decision on the establishment of intermediate range ballistic missile sites be postponed in order to allow time to examine the possibilities of disarmament.

"It is of decisive importance that Nato builds up its military position to make it clear to everybody that Nato's military forces serve two purposes only—to deter aggression and to retain the possibility of negotiations which would be aimed at the relaxation of tensions, disarmament and understanding between East and West," he said.

"Continued armament does not, in itself, lead to a solution of the issues dividing East and West," he added.—Reuter.

NATO HEADS LUKEWARM TO SOVIET TALKS

Paris, Dec. 16.

British Prime Minister Mr Harold Macmillan said today in the Nato summit meeting that he would like to go as far as possible in discussions and debates with the Russians to prove the sincerity of the West, without making any concession to its security.

Mr Macmillan said he thought the Western Powers, before opening this discussion, should begin by reaffirming their strength, and should not be afraid of the consequences of modern weapons under the protection of which they were living.

He said Great Britain's policy would be determined in the light of the discussions which would take place, and would not be decided before the end of the present Nato conference.

The Charter

Mr Macmillan said that President Eisenhower had reaffirmed the doctrine which provided that an attack against one of the Nato members would be considered as an aggression against all of them.

He said that was their charter and they would remain faithful to it.

Delimited

Achilles van Acker, Belgian Prime Minister, advocated at the conference "strictly delimited" and carefully prepared negotiations with the Eastern bloc, Belgian delegation source said last night.

He said Nato's role could not remain purely military and suggested member nations should adopt "a constructive policy which would create frequent contacts and exchanges of all kinds with the peoples of the East."

Mr Adnan Menderes, Turkish Prime Minister, told the meeting Turkey's Army was "the best safeguard against Communist expansion in the Middle East" but needed all up-to-date weapons including guided missiles, according to a Turkish delegation source.

He said Russia's aim was to make the Mediterranean "her zone of operation" and that "the Communist danger would be increased" if such regimes as that in Syria were consolidated.—France-Press and Reuter.

Precautions In Cyprus

Nicosia, Dec. 16.

Military reinforcements stood ready for fresh rioting today although processions of islanders protesting the UN vote on Cyprus dispersed peacefully.

Many schools were closed, shops did little trade. Security authorities were taking no chances, however, in the event trouble might break out at the funeral this afternoon of a Greek-Cypriot killed by security forces during the unrest yesterday.—United Press.

Later Date

In the more distant future, thinking of the welfare of the next few generations, man must think of a real peace. This peace should be founded on justice, he said.

Mr John Diefenbaker, the Canadian Prime Minister, told the meeting he believed that the possibility of holding negotiations with the Russians might be considered at a later date if progress could be made beforehand in some fields such as

human, scientific, and cultural relations.

"I believe that if enough progress can be made in this and other ways, then consideration could be given to the possibility of holding further negotiations on matters of substance at a later date with greater understanding and confidence once the USSR gives evidence of a serious desire to reach agreement," Mr Diefenbaker said.

Mr Diefenbaker advocated the establishment of something in the nature of a food bank to take surplus of food products and distribute them in an ordinary way among countries of the less advanced areas of the world.

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UK Renews IMF Agreement

London, Dec. 16.

The International Monetary Fund had agreed to renew for a year a stand-by arrangement enabling Britain to purchase up to \$788,530,000 in foreign currencies with sterling, it was announced here tonight.

The British Treasury, quoting an announcement by the Fund in Washington today, said the stand-by arrangement, which had been in effect since December 22, last year, has not been drawn upon to date.

The extension of the arrangement was granted at the request of the British Government.—Reuter.

LARGE SUM OF MONEY MISSING

New York, Dec. 16.

The theft of \$550,000 to \$1,000,000 in American and foreign currency and money orders was discovered today by a partner of the Rockefeller Centre money-exchange firm.

Lionel Ferrara, of Ferrara, Mantra and Brooks said he discovered the theft when he opened the office this morning. There were no signs of forced entry and police surmised the thief had a key to the office.

It was not known immediately how much of the loot was in American currency. The firm does a large business in converting dollars to foreign currency.—United Press.

U.K. WILL NOT STOP H-BOMB TESTS ON JAN. 1

London, Dec. 16.

The British Government will not agree to suspend H-bomb testing as of January 1, as proposed by Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin, the House of Commons was told today.

The Minister of State for foreign affairs, David Ormsby-Gore, in a written answer to a question submitted in Parliament, said that he did "not wish to anticipate the reply to Mr. Bulganin's letter," but, he said, "it appears that he still envisages the suspension of nuclear tests in isolation from a disarmament agreement."

Mr Ormsby-Gore added, "this is a proposal which has been rejected by the United Nations as well as by the British Government."—United Press.

Spellman Leaves

New York, Dec. 16.

Cardinal Francis Spellman, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, left here today by air for his annual Christmas visit to American troops stationed overseas.—Reuter.

BRUTAL MURDER OF CHILDREN

Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 16.

Three children, one girl of 10, one girl of four and their brother, seven, were brutally murdered while their father, a Chinese vegetable gardener, and their mother, a Chinese laborer, were working away from their house in a village near Seremban, recently.

The police have detained a man for questioning. The murders were discovered when a neighbour, hearing screams from the house ran to the police station to report. The mother said that she was tapping rubber a mile away from the house when a neighbour told her that her three children were dead. She is now suffering from severe shock. The father who was working 16 miles from Seremban, had not seen his children for a month. Police believed that the weapon used by the murderer was a tapping knife.—France-Press.

Bank Rate Leakage Inquiry

Rumours Harmed London's Financial Reputation: Cobbold

London, Dec. 16.

Mr Cameron F. Cobbold, Governor of the Bank of England, told an official tribunal today that rumours of a Bank Rate leakage had "caused prejudice to the financial reputation of London and so to the national credit."

The 53-year-old Governor—a personality little known to the British public despite his importance in the nation's economic affairs—said: "I have been profoundly disturbed by the effect which the rumours about these matters have had around the world."

"If you should conclude that these rumours are baseless I do earnestly hope that the final result of this tribunal may be not only to maintain but actually enhance the reputation of London for financial integrity."

The tribunal, set up by the government, is investigating the rumours of a leakage about last September's two per cent rise in the Bank Rate to seven per cent.

Memorandum

Mr Cobbold, in a memorandum to the tribunal, supported the present system of the Bank of England having directors who were also directors of private concerns. Possession of special knowledge which they must not allow to influence their affairs elsewhere sometimes put some strain on them.

But if its directors were not to be practical men of business or if they were to become mere figureheads the utility of the Bank of England to the public interest of Britain and the Commonwealth would disappear.

Following Mr Cobbold to the witness table today was Mr Humphrey Charles Baskerville Mynors, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

Mr Mynors said he acted as Governor from August 23 while Mr Cobbold was on holiday.

Under Discussion

On September 3, he wrote in his own hand letters to the Bank directors including Mr William Johnston Keswick who were out of London. He told them that measures for dealing with the economic situation were under discussion and this might include action on the Bank Rate. He told them to destroy the letters.

On Monday, September 16 (three days before the Bank Rate rise), he saw Mr Keswick who looked into his room to say he was back from his holiday. It was not an engagement fixed in advance. Mr Mynors said he had told Mr Keswick at that meeting that the possibility he had suggested in his letter was still only a possibility "but we were somewhat further down the road."

"I certainly named no figure for a possible increase in the Bank Rate," Mr Mynors said. He agreed he told Mr Keswick that measures were under contemplation and that he possibly used the phrase "swinging rise" in the Bank Rate.

In The Middle

On September 18 he asked Mr Keswick to come and see him and he then told him what had been told to other Bank directors about the intention to raise the Bank Rate.

Mr Keswick then told him his firm had orders to sell certain gilt-edged securities from clients in the Far East. They were in the middle of executing this order.

Mr Mynors said Mr Keswick left in his mind the impression that £300,000 or £400,000 of orders was still to be completed.

The Attorney-General, "He did not tell you at any time what was the total nominal amount of order he had received?"

Mr Mynors: "I do not think he did. No. Any figure he gave me I took as relating to a possible amount of order which had been completed."

Mr Mynors said he did not think it would have made any impression on his mind if Mr Keswick had said he had that day received an order for a sale of gilt—eased to the nominal value of £1,000,000.

The Attorney-General: "Did he say anything to you to this effect: It is really very awkward, because this order for selling a million has come in reply to the telegram which I sent after launching with you on Monday?"

Mr Mynors: "He did not."

The Attorney-General: "Did he give you any indication that the telegram had been received for the order to sell?"

Mr Mynors: "I do not recollect."

The Attorney-General: "Did he tell you it was in reply to a telegram he had sent?"

Mr Mynors: "I think not. I don't remember it."

The Advice

The Attorney-General: "Was the advice you gave him to carry on with the uncompleted sale to avoid arousing any suspicion?"

Mr Mynors: "Certainly."

Lord Justice Parker: "Supposing Mr Keswick when he came into your room before lunch, and having heard what you had to say about the possibility of a rise in the Bank Rate still being undecided, discussion, had said, 'My principles in Hongkong want to tell you that they have asked my advice. They don't want to miss the bus. What am I to advise them?' What would you have said?"

Mr Mynors: "I should have asked him whether he could divorce his independent judgment from what I had just said, which at that stage I think he could have done, because I had mentioned no date and no figure."

Justice Parker: "You would I suppose have questioned him a bit more about the need for selling?"

Mr Mynors: "I might have done that. It is a little hypothetical."

The tribunal was adjourned till Wednesday.—Reuter.

Cocom Ends

Current Session

Paris, Dec. 16.

The 15-nation committee which governs strategic embargoes on trade with the Communist world—Cocom—announced here tonight that it had finished its work for the current session and was adjourning for an indefinite period.

The committee, which includes Japan and all Nato countries, except Iceland, has been meeting to fix quotas for the export by member countries to the Communist bloc of goods subject to strategic control.

In its current session the committee had two specific tasks.

SEPARATE QUOTA

One was to decide whether separate quotas should be fixed for trade with China or whether trade with all Communist nations—China, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe—should be governed by global quotas.

The committee's second task was to agree on the size of the global quotas for specific goods and to divide these quotas among the member countries.

A communique issued by Cocom tonight said the work had been done "to the satisfaction of all members of Cocom."—Reuter.

GONZALES HAS TO PLAY

Los Angeles, Dec. 16.

A Superior Court Judge ruled today that professional tennis star Pancho Gonzales must abide by a contract to play in promoter Jack Kramer's tennis tour.

Superior Judge Leon T. David handed down a memorandum decision that the disputed contract, requiring Gonzales' services through 1960, was valid and there were no grounds for submitting the dispute to arbitration.

ARBITRATION

Kramer requested a court order requiring arbitration on the contract after Gonzales charged that Kramer in a verbal agreement had promised to increase Gonzales' share of gross receipts from exhibition play from 20 to 25 per cent.

Judge David set aside putting the dispute up for jury trial, saying he "knew of no way to alter a written contract by a verbal agreement."—United Press.

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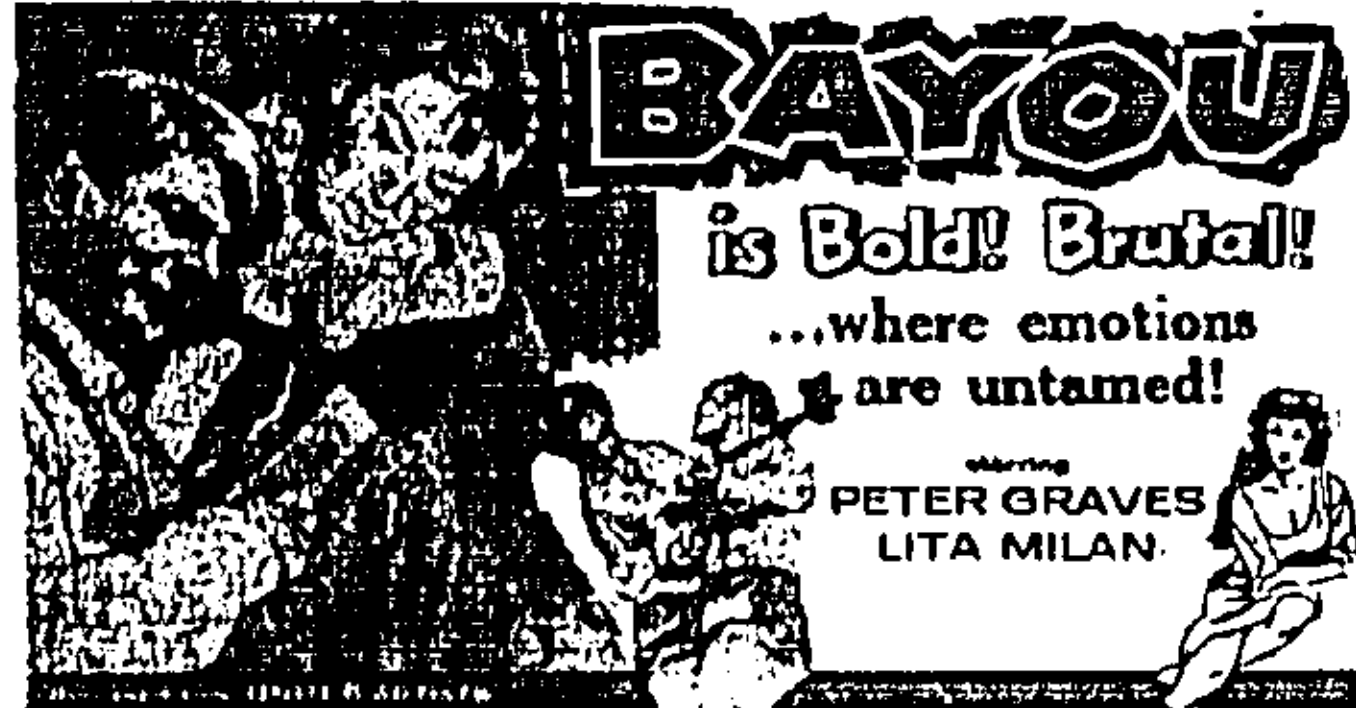
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GAILLARD: INDONESIA IS WEST'S LAST WARNING

Paris, Dec. 16.

Premier Felix Gaillard told the Atlantic "summit" conference today that the Indonesian crisis was "the last warning for the West."

M. Gaillard said that Soviet Russia was stirring up nationalist troubles in Indonesia and elsewhere "to conquer the remaining bulwarks of European influence" overseas.

M. Gaillard said Nato would collapse if it remained "limited diplomatically, enclosed geographically and inactive militarily."

He said that while Soviet expansionism had been contained in Europe, it was making steady progress in Asia, the Near East and Africa. At M. Gaillard's request the Nato Foreign Ministers will discuss African affairs tomorrow.

Meanwhile, in Djakarta, a Foreign Office spokesman today urged Nato members to "be on guard" against Dutch efforts to draw them into the Dutch-Indonesian dispute.

Foreign Office Secretary-General Sir Arthur Krumpholtz warned that if Nato was persuaded to take action against Indonesian, Afro-Asian countries would view the organisation as backing "Colonialism."

He expressed hope that Nato countries would not rush their own national interests for the sake of Dutch colonialists in West Irian (West New Guinea). But in Paris, Dr Willem Drees, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, appealed to the nations of the Atlantic Alliance to show their solidarity with the Dutch people and refuse to take their place in Indonesia, a Dutch conference source revealed here tonight.

The source said that this appeal had been "deliberately deleted from the summary of the Dutch Prime Minister's speech to the Nato summit council meeting which had been released to the press."

Business

The source said that M. Drees had "made it clear that the Nato allies would not enter into extensive business relations with the Indonesians."

Mr Joseph Luns, Dutch Foreign Minister, tonight told reporters that "Holland does not demand that economic sanctions be enforced against Indonesia."

Mr Luns also said the Netherlands had received from her Nato allies "more than moral assurances concerning Dutch interests in Indonesia." He added: "There is less danger at present that other countries would derive profit from the situation there."

Reuters and United Press.

"We Never Intended To Do All This!" Indonesia Says

Paris, Dec. 16.

The Indonesian Embassy in Paris said today the Indonesian Government had never intended to confiscate ships of the Dutch K.P.M. Company.

The Embassy said in a communique that the Indonesian Government "deeply regrets the precipitate measures" taken by the K.P.M. which had caused ships to get sail for Singapore and destinations other than Indonesia.

"Although armed soldiers were posted aboard various ships that represents only an internal measure taken in the context of martial law and aimed at assuring easy communications between the various islands of the Indonesian archipelago," the communique said.

It also said that the Government had never intended to confiscate or nationalise Dutch businesses in the country. It said the business had been under Government control with a view to "preventing actions by third parties." The communique added that the Indonesian Government had never intended to "expel the 60,000 Dutchmen in Indonesia." "The Dutch Government was simply asked to repatriate her residents at present without work in Indonesia," it added.

A Revolution Brewing In Indonesia?

By BERTRAM JONES

Djakarta, Dec. 16. It looks today as if Indonesia might have a new government within a week—with Moderates taking over from the cabinet. Several secret meetings have taken place between Moderates who believe the government has gone too far on the Dutch issue.

If the coup comes off, the New Guinea issue will be set aside and the more pressing problems like local unemployment and economic difficulties will be dealt with.

It is estimated that 300,000 are made unemployed by the present government's grab tactics. Nobody knows where the government will get the money to pay the idle crews and dockers of seized Dutch shipping.

The Moderates claim the New Guinea crisis was whipped up to distract attention from internal troubles. — London Express Service.

News Flashes On Djakarta

Djakarta, Dec. 16. Djakarta newspapers warned Nato today not to intervene in the Netherlands-Indonesia crisis. The daily "Merdeka" said "The intervention of one side will bring about the intervention of the other side. The present problem is strictly between Indonesia and the Netherlands."

The Suluh Indonesia, an organ of the Nationalist party, warned that "bad consequences" would result from Nato intervention in the dispute.—United Press.

Singapore, Dec. 16. Three top officials of the Union of Burma Airways arrived here today on their way to Djakarta to discuss with the Indonesian government possibilities of the airlines helping to evacuate Dutch nationals.

The party was led by U Kin Thein, director of civil aviation in Burma and also a director of the airline, who said KLM had asked the Burmese airways to help evacuate Dutch nationals in Indonesia.

He said: "We would be only too glad to do an errand of mercy for the Dutch people and the Dutch government. Burma being an Asian country, we foresee no obstacle."—United Press.

Canberra, Dec. 16. The Indonesian Embassy in Australia today accused the Dutch of trying to divert world attention from Indonesia's claims to West New Guinea by claiming that current anti-Dutch action by Indonesia is not connected with West New Guinea.

Said the statement: "...the Dutch are referring to mass evacuation and confiscation of Dutch enterprises in Indonesia as separate from the dispute over West New Guinea, which is the core of the matter."—United Press.

Tokyo, Dec. 16. Netherlands Ambassador Jonker Otto Reuchlin paid a 30-minute call on Foreign Minister Aichihiro Fujiyama today during which it was speculated they discussed the Dutch-Indonesian crisis.

Reports said Reuchlin and Fujiyama are believed to have discussed the Indonesian request for Japanese ships following the seizure or pullout of Dutch shipping interests in Indonesia.

—United Press
Djakarta, Dec. 16. A Parliamentary committee appointed to seek conciliation between President Soekarno and former Vice President Mohammad Hatta reported tonight that thus far its efforts have been fruitless.

It asked for more time to continue its mission. Dr Hatta quit a year ago over reported differences with President Soekarno over national policy.—United Press.

Strontium Cure Discovery?

Tokyo, Dec. 16. Two Tokyo university professors have developed a method for eliminating deadly strontium 90 from the human body following radiation fallout from a nuclear bomb blast, it was reported today.

The treatment for "atomic illness" consists of a low-phosphate diet plus injections of calcium sodium citrate and tricalcium phosphate. — France-Press.

Iran's Quake Toll Rises To 1,062

Tehran, Dec. 16. The death toll in Iran's earthquake was officially placed at 1,062 tonight.

An official announcement here said 812 victims of the earthquake had already been buried in the village of Farsanaj.

Princess Shams, sister of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, who heads the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society—Iran's equivalent of the Red Cross—planned to go to the area.

The government ordered urgent allocation of funds for relief work.

Meanwhile, in Weston Massachusetts, the Observatory registered a strong earthquake at 1235 hours local time today.

The Reverend Father Francis Donohue at the observatory said the quake occurred about 2,700 miles southwest of Weston, off the west coast of Central Mexico. — France-Press and United Press.

"ALL QUIET" REPORTS FROM DJAKARTA

—The Big Take-over Continues

Djakarta, Dec. 16.

Reports from throughout this land of many islands indicated today that Indonesian military commanders were carrying out their orders to take control of all Dutch enterprises.

There were no reports of trouble in the takeover and most former Dutch administrators were kept on in their jobs, at least for the time being. There is no indication yet what their future will be.

Reports from Ambon quoted the commandant of Maluku and the West Irian military as guaranteeing the personal safety of all foreign nationals, including Dutch residents.

He was reported as saying drastic measures would be taken against lawless elements, and confirmed reports that a number of persons already have been arrested.

SHORTAGE

The reports said the local command was working on ways to restore sea transportation and was preparing for a meat shortage.

The Federation of Chinese Organisations presented a cheque for 100,000 rupiahs to the West Irian Liberation Fund as a token of solidarity and support, it was reported here today.

Meanwhile, plans for increased Indonesian trade representation were reported today in the aftermath of moves against Dutch interests here.

Ankara News Agency said the government was considering the setting up of trade commissioner's offices in foreign countries that would function independently of Indonesian embassies.

This would lead to the expansion of trade relations with those countries, the news agency reported.

RUBBER

At the same time private shipping companies in a number of foreign countries including Japan were reported eager to supply ships for the vital inter-island commerce that was falling off since the Netherlands K.P.M. Shipping Company was placed under government control and its vessels tied up in Indonesian ports.

Rubber trading circles reported today that rubber stocks were piling up in warehouses in the outer islands as a result of the coup.

In Djakarta, the stoppage of inter-island shipping was reported as having thrown 30,000 dock labourers out of work although they continue to collect their pay.—United Press.

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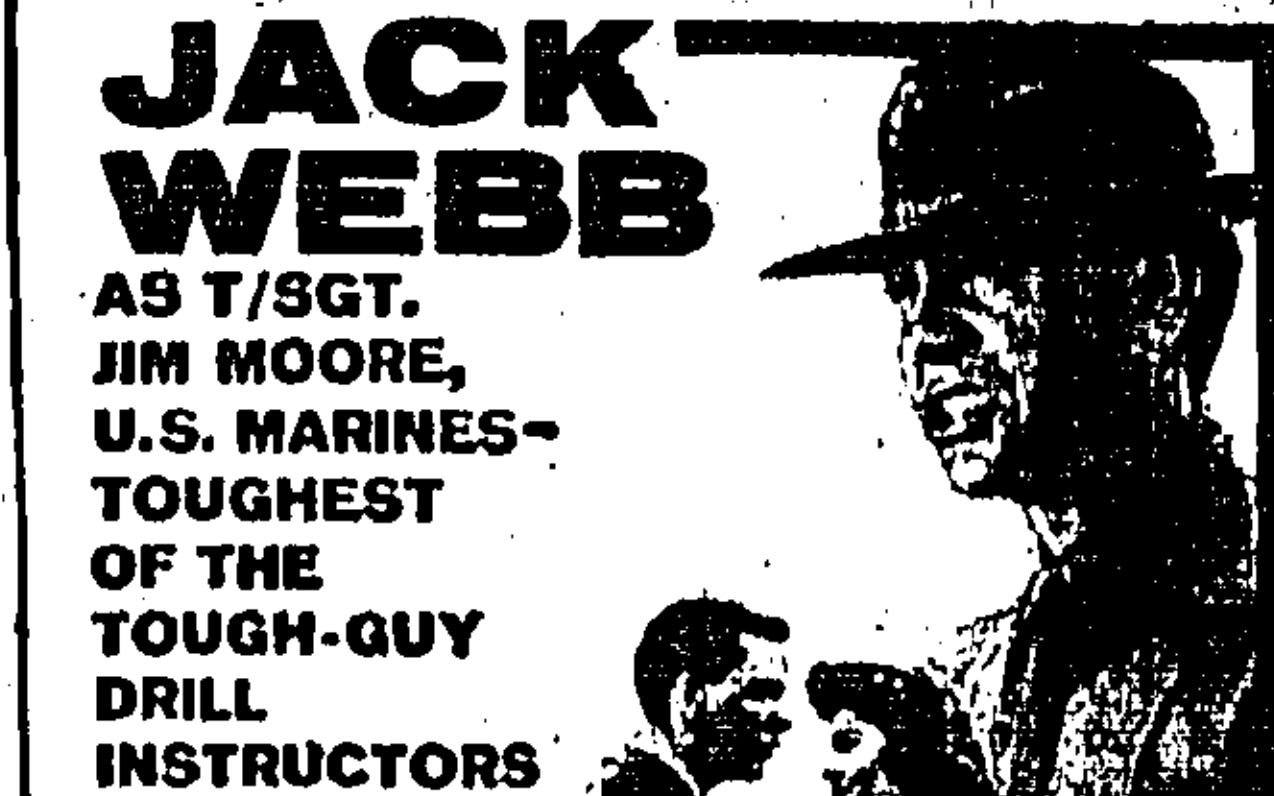
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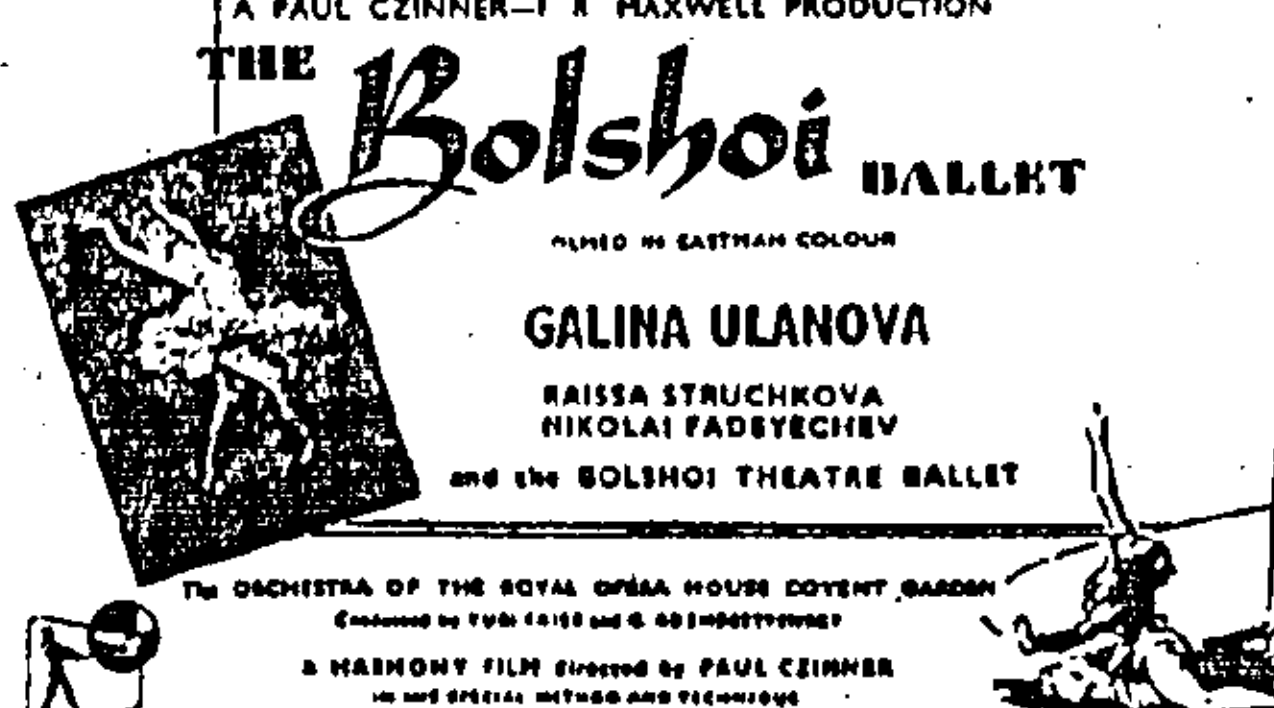


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TO-DAY ONLY
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

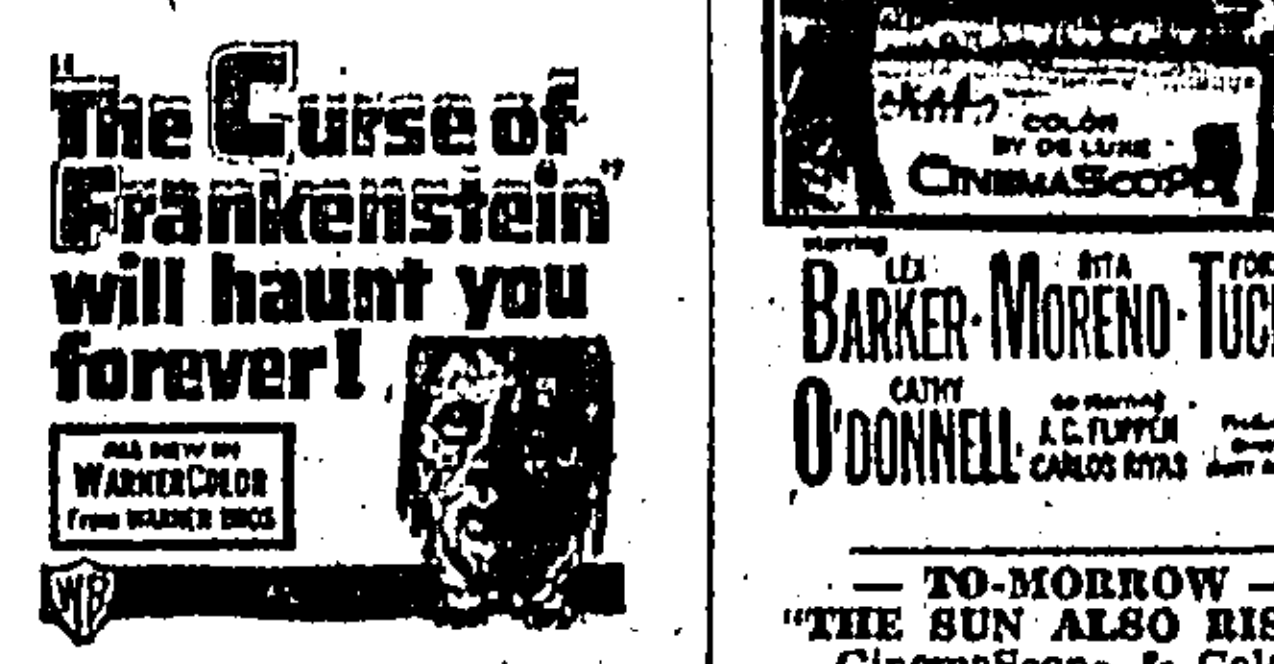


TO-MORROW MORNING SHOW
AT 12.30 P.M.
Jack MAHONEY—FREDERICK CASTLE
in "OVERLAND PACIFIC"
in Technicolor
—To-Morrow—
John Agar—Cynthia Patrick in
"THE MOLE PEOPLE"

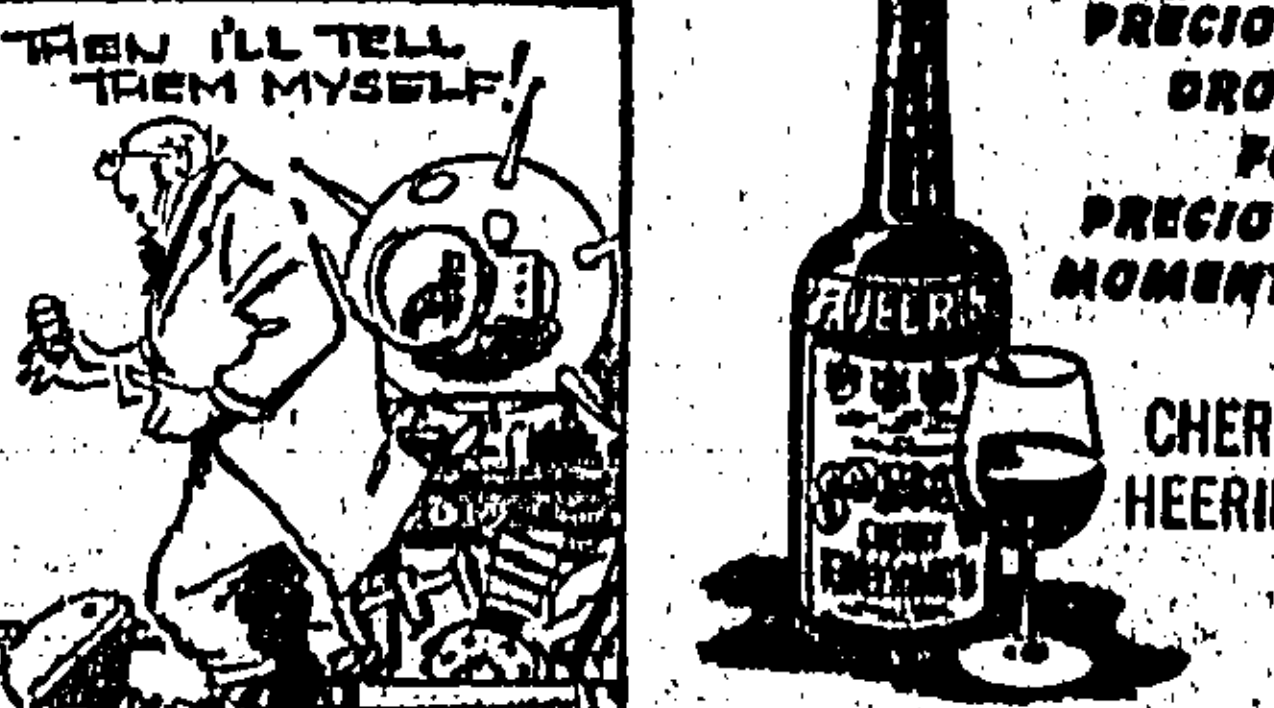
ORIENTAL MAJESTIC

— TO-DAY —
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

SEE the Creature created by
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TO-MORROW
"THE SUN ALSO RISES"
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Uneasy Feeling In American Trade Committee US Policy On China Unrealistic?

Advisory Group's Criticism Of Government Policy

Washington, Dec. 16.

Some feeling that the United States trade policy on China is unrealistic was reported today among a private business group chosen to advise the United States Government on foreign trade.

The group was the World Trade Advisory Committee. Its 60 members were announced earlier this month by the Commerce Secretary, Sinclair Weeks. Forty-eight of the members met here today for the first time to hear government officials outline foreign trade policies and discuss them.

Henry Kearns, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for International Affairs, reported to newsmen after the secret session recessed for lunch. He said some of the committee members described the China trade policy as unrealistic, but he did not disclose the extent of that opinion among the conferees.

Mr. Kearns said, however, that his earlier experience was that that was generally the first reaction among business groups when China trade was discussed.

He added that the opinion was modified when other factors, such as defence and international politics, were added to the original consideration of trade alone.

Trade Balance

Mr. Kearns said government representatives at today's meeting had made no preparations for detailed discussion of the China trade policy and the subject was not reviewed in detail.

Some participants also criticised United States loans to Poland on the grounds that she had a favourable trade balance with the United States, the Assistant Secretary said.

Members of the advisory group in general approved United States participation in trade fairs and dispatch of trade missions abroad, Mr. Kearns said.

There was some sentiment, he said, that the United States at the fairs should place less emphasis on consumer goods and more on angles which might assist the fair countries in their special fields.

There was objection from the advisory committee to any extension now of United States Government activities in pro-

moting travel abroad, Mr. Kearns said.

The feeling instead was that the field should be left to private enterprise, as now, with the government confining its part to attempts to reduce impediments to travel.

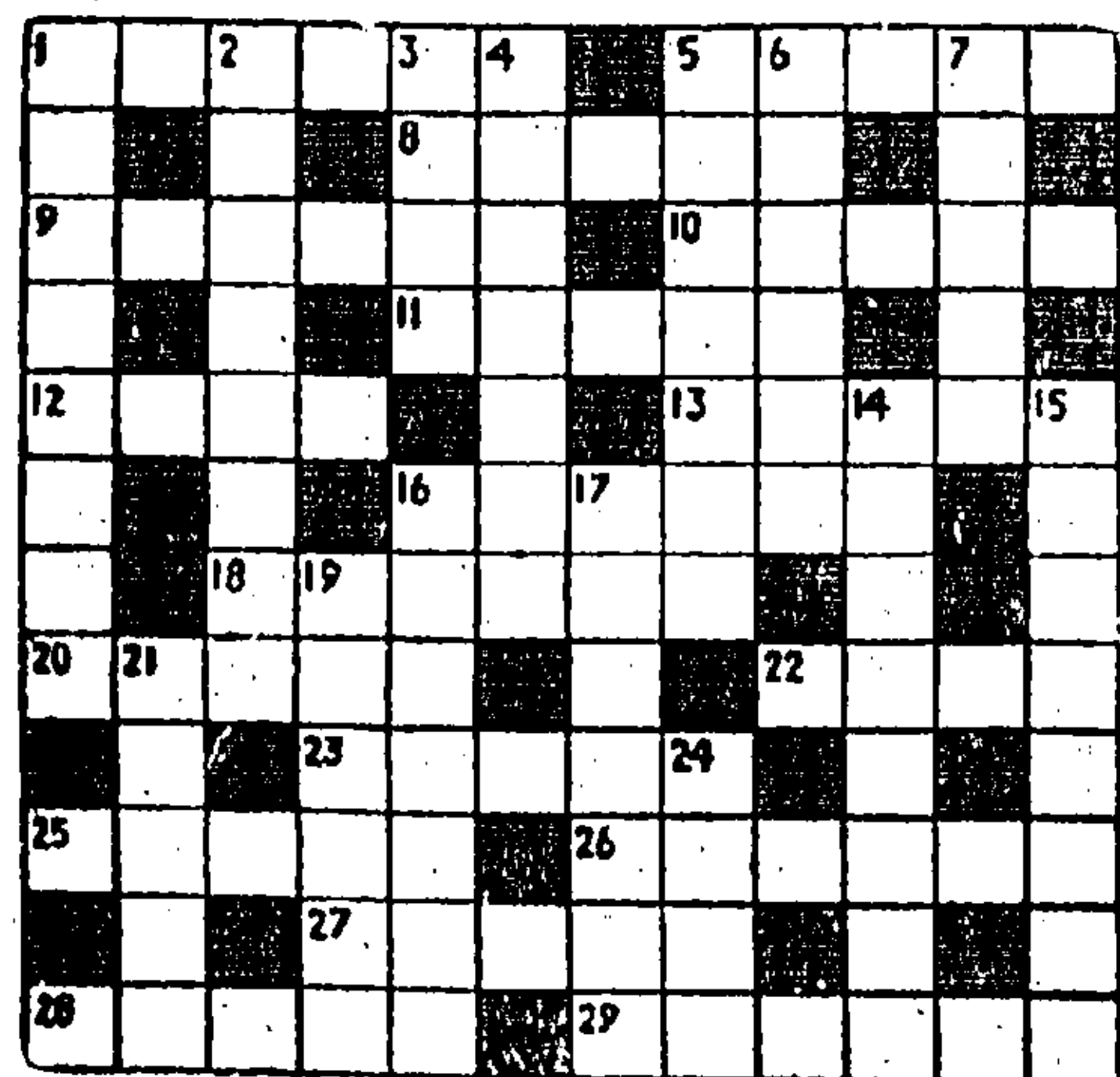
The Committee was appointed to advise the Commerce Department in formulating policies and programmes to promote international trade, travel, and investment. Its membership was drawn from all sections of the United States. — United Press.

NASSER'S DEBT TO RUSSIA

Washington, Dec. 16. Rep. Wayne L. Hays, chairman of a four-man Congressional subcommittee which returned today from a six-week tour of Europe, Near East and Africa, told newsmen that President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt "is having some second thoughts about becoming too indebted to Russia."

Mr. Hays said President Nasser told the subcommittee he had been treated "with a lack of dignity by the U.S. State Department, but he still hopes to develop a position of real neutrality, with trade balanced between East and West." — United Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- Song of praise (6).
 - Baronet, for example (6).
 - Rhinoceros relative (6).
 - Not round-about (6).
 - Weeds (6).
 - Safe anchorage (5).
 - Famous Swiss character (4).
 - Join family together (5).
 - Half dressing (5).
 - Oval county (6).
 - Unusually incident (5).
 - Russian (4).
 - Not fresh fish? (6).
 - Welsh snail (6).
 - Dawn goddess (6).
 - Apprehensions (5).
 - Cautionary colour as it were (5).
 - Moved on rollers, perhaps (6).
- DOWN**
- Men of figures (8).
 - Yodelers? (8).
 - Scrutch—in rather than out (4).
 - Bullfighter (7).
 - Channel varying in depth (7).
 - Smoothed things out (8).
 - Enjoyed (6).
 - Fall to include (5, 3).
 - Cavalry flag? (6).
 - No. 1 politician (7).
 - Fruits (7).
 - Rickety, maybe (6).
 - Pale colour (8).
 - Is its owner long in the tooth? (4).

MONDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 1 Others, 5 Brass, 8 Opall, 9 Eskimo, 11 Exist, 12 Emeralds, 14 Ogle, 16 Elope, 18 Meloe, 19 Oiler, 20 Balloon, 24 Obsess, 26 Insane, 28 Edge, 29 Ernie, 20 Ernie, Down: 1 Over, 2 Hike, 3 Horn, 4 Spouse, 5 Blessed, 6 Aviator, 7 Fetter, 10 Image, 13 Improve, 14 Old, 15 Benn, 16 Igarew, 17 Lemon, 19 Oblige, 21 Oner, 23 Nazi, 25 Berg.

The Lure Of Year-End Spending

Tokyo, Dec. 17. The mass circulation Mainichi newspapers today attacked what it termed "unnecessary" year-end spending for parties, cocktail dresses for Christmas and new kimonos for the New Year.

"It is about time that unnecessary expenses were adjusted and liquidated... housewives at this time should not succumb to the lure of Christmas prosperity and New Year merry-making, but should endeavour to use money to make their homes a better place to live in," the editorial said. — United Press.

Port Said, Dec. 16. The Egyptian Suez Canal authorities announced that ships with a draft of up to 33.5 feet were allowed to transit the canal starting today. — France-Press.

New York's Big Subway Strike Is Over

New York, Dec. 16.

Striking motormen who snarled New York's 228-mile subway system with an eight-day strike that dislocated millions of riders, gave up their struggle for union recognition tonight and agreed to return to work.

An overflow crowd of 1,500 members of the Motormen's Benevolent Association jammed a Brooklyn hall to vote to return to the trains and bring the City's transportation system to normal.

The men made the decision as the polls closed in the collective bargaining election they had hoped their strike would prevent. They made the decision also as the Transit Authority, which operates the city-owned subways, announced it was hiring replacements for the striking workers.

BACK-TO-WORK

The back-to-work move was decided on at the request of Union attorney Louis Waldman, who promised the men he would obtain for them a six-point agreement based on proposals made earlier by the Mayor, the Governor and other officials.

The points outlined by Waldman were:

- ★ All strikers will be accepted back on their jobs and that no summary action will be taken against them.
- ★ Any cases against the strikers will be judged by an impartial arbitrator.
- ★ A special fund will be established to offset wage inequities.
- ★ The four gabled Motormen's Union officials will be released.
- ★ A State Senator will seek legislation granting transport workers the right to choose their own unions.
- ★ The strikers' grievances will be given every conceivable consideration.

A Plea For Peace—By Russia

Berne, Dec. 16.

The Soviet Union has appealed to Switzerland to help "ease international tension" and to promote "confidence and peace among nations."

The appeal was contained in a note to the Federal Council (Swiss Government) handed to the Swiss Embassy in Moscow on December 12 and released in the Swiss capital today.

It referred to the Soviet note to all members of the U.N. and said "Switzerland as a peace-loving country maintaining perpetual neutrality could make a certain contribution towards easing of international tension and towards strengthening confidence and peace among nations" by "studying the proposals" made in the note to U.N. nations and doing its part "to promote" confidence and economic relations among nations. — United Press.

GOING STRONG AT 118



Britain's Bid To Harness Power Of H-Bomb

Stanford, Dec. 16. A top nuclear physicist declared today the British have achieved a "significant" advance toward harnessing the Hydrogen Bomb as a source of power.

Dr. Sterling Colgate of the University of California Livermore Radiation Laboratory told a news conference. "The British have made a significant contribution to the ultimate attainment of thermonuclear power."

The 32-year-old physicist, who was speaking in connection with a meeting here of 700 physicists from throughout the world, said he was unable to divulge the nature of the British advance. He said security regulations prevented him from saying whether the United States had made similar progress.

A London newspaper reported recently that British atomic scientists had succeeded in conducting a controlled thermonuclear fusion giving off temperatures greater than the sun.

Dr. Colgate deplored the disclosure, which he said might have "compromised" the possibility of developing new exchanges of information with Soviet scientists.

"We all hope to publish (papers) simultaneously at the Geneva meeting (next September) and we hope at that time to hear a great deal from the Russians," he said.

Dr. Colgate, who returned recently from observing British nuclear developments under the auspices of the Atomic Energy Commission, said actual harnessing of thermonuclear power was "anywhere from ten to 1,000 years away." — United Press.

East v The West

INVESTIGATION: WHO MAKES THE BETTER HUSBAND?

Singapore, Dec. 16.

Asian men make as good if not better husbands than Englishmen or Europeans. This is the consensus of a newspaper survey here among women who have been to Europe and England or who have married European men.

The poll resulted from a statement made by six Chinese girls studying in England asserting that Englishmen make better husbands than Chinese. Mrs. Elizabeth Comber, or better known as Han Su Yin the authoress of "A Many A Splendoured Thing," said: "I do not find any difference between a Chinese and English husband. It is quite untrue to say that only Englishmen make better husbands. Chinese tradition shows the men thoughtful, respectful and kind to their wives."

(Han Su Yin's first husband was a Chinese Air Force pilot. She is now married to an Englishman).

SECURITY

Mrs. Roseline Hernon, a Chinese married to an Englishman, said: "My sisters are married to Chinese and are very happy. I must say that Chinese husbands are more serious-minded where the home is concerned. He gives his children security."

Mrs. C. J. Foh, an Englishwoman married to a Chinese doctor, said: "Englishmen may have their qualities but Chinese husbands can be more wonderful. In their quiet, unassuming way they love their wives. They are very considerate and treat women as something dainty and feminine. They lavish gifts thoughtfully on birthdays and other auspicious occasions."

Mrs. Helen Ling, an American woman married to a Chinese for more than 30 years, said: "I definitely do not agree that European men make better husbands. I feel that most educated Chinese are easier to live with and more modern in their ways of living." — United Press.

ABDULLAH RELEASED FROM GAOL

Srinagar, Dec. 16.

The Kashmir Government has decided to release Sheikh Abdullah, former Prime Minister, from detention, official sources said today.

They added he was likely to be released next month.

The decision was taken at a Kashmir cabinet meeting yesterday, the sources said.

Sheikh Abdullah had been detained since August, 1953, when he was deposed by the present Prime Minister, Bashi Ghulam Mohammed.—Reuter.

SUDDEN DEATH OF AUSTRALIAN

Rome, Dec. 17.

An autopsy will be carried out today on the body of an official of the Australian immigration office in Rome following his death, apparently of a stroke, yesterday.

The body is in the city morgue.

The Australian official, Ronald Ashton, died in a hospital last night after slumping on the ground in the recreation room of the Australian immigration office. — United Press.

Snag Hits US Attempt To Launch A Missile

Cape Canaveral, Dec. 16.

A "very minor" difficulty today delayed a third attempt to successfully launch the Intercontinental Atlas missile.

There was no official word at the test centre, but sources said the firing would come tomorrow. The trouble today caused delay in the middle of the countdown.

There were indications at the test centre that the Air Force will attempt to fire both of the two Atlases on hand this week.

Engineers apparently believe they could attempt a second firing this week even if the first one fails, because they have perfected a system of correcting usual causes of misfires within two or three days.

There was also activity today around the service tower where the Navy's Vanguard exploded on December 6 in the nation's first attempt to launch a satellite.

There are reports that the Vanguard launching area will be ready for another missile shortly. — United Press.

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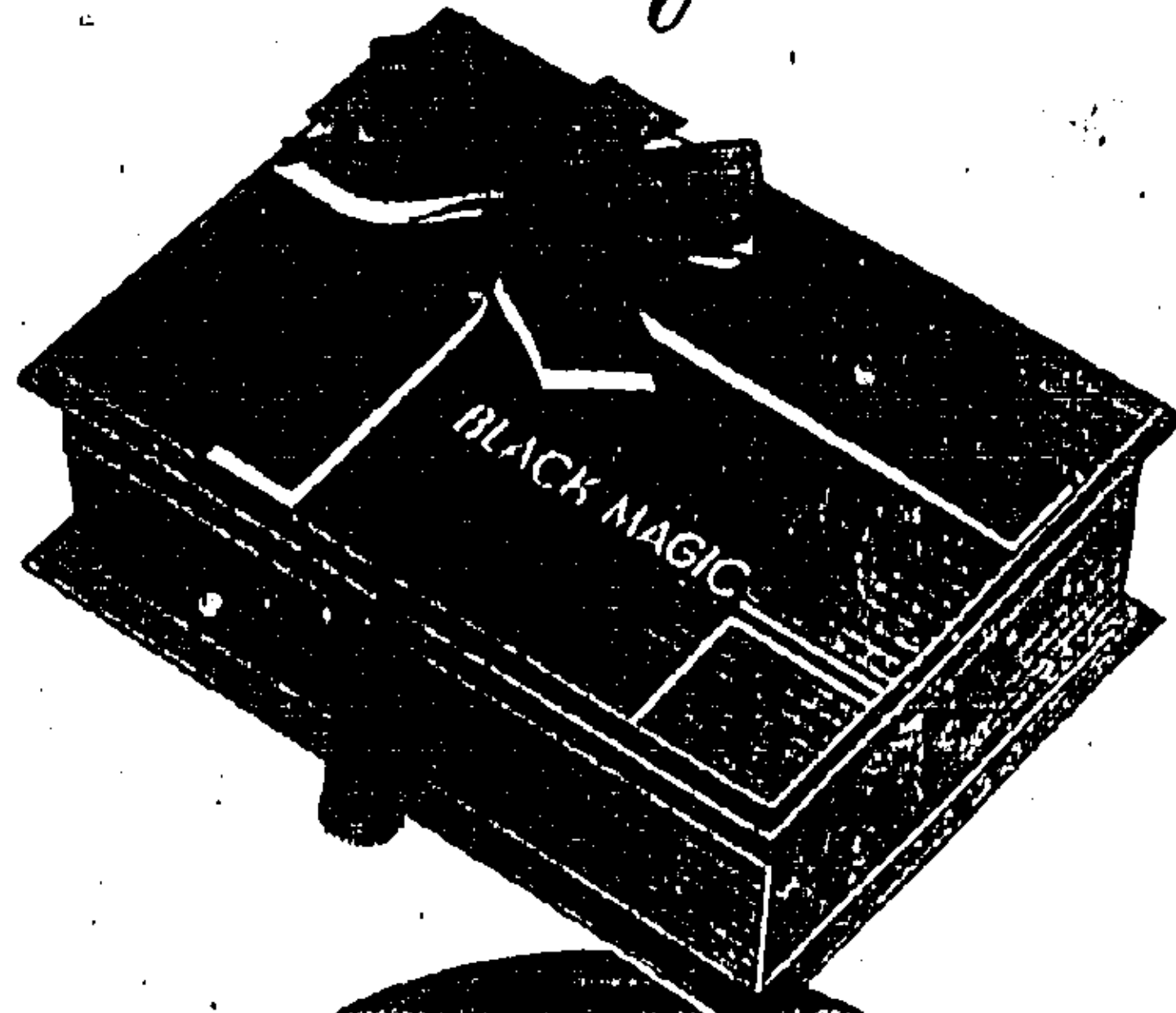
HANDBAGS

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IN THE ROYAL SOUP

SUDDENLY my evening's fun was shattered. I saw a palace servant pushing his way through the dancers on the crowded night-club floor.

I knew something was wrong. But what could it be? All eyes turned on me as the breathless man from the palace dashed to my table. His whispered words sounded like a shout in my ears:—
"MR CHURCHILL WANTS HIS SOUP. THE WHOLE PALACE IS IN A PANIC. COME QUICKLY."

The words hit me like a sledge-hammer—I had forgotten to make arrangements about the bowl of turtle soup.

Mr Churchill always insisted that come hell or high water, he must have turtle soup (REAL turtle, of course) every night in bed.

And as his valet, it was my job to serve it to him.

But that night in Copenhagen I had seen him off to the State banquet being given in his honour, and I had slipped off to the night clubs around the Tivoli.

OVER my delicious iced beer, and in the happy, hazy atmosphere, I had FORGOTTEN all about the soup.

In the meantime, my Guv'nor had returned to his suite in the Danish Royal Palace, climbed into bed and was W-A-I-T-I-N-G at the top of his voice.

I leapt to my feet in the night club. I ran to the door with the palace servant pounding along behind me.

The startled eyes of the night-clubbers watched us as we jumped into a waiting limousine.

was wearing the insignia and orders of . . . THE KING.

Later I got to know the athletic King of Denmark quite well. But I never discussed the soup. I thought, it was better to let sleeping dogs lie.

In spite of the free and easy attitude, all his palace servants had to wear their smart uniforms.

The King's valet looked like a rear-admiral in his magnificent outfit.

During the trip—it was in December, 1951, a year after our Copenhagen visit—he arranged a New Year party for his group of V.I.P.s.

He made a point of asking me to attend—but, forgetfully, I went off to a private party with some of the ship's officers.

We were having a wonderful time—until the ship's loudspeakers blared out:—

He greeted Mr Churchill and the welcoming ceremony had started.

THEN the Guv'nor did it. He called the Admiral over and said:—

"I want you to meet my man Norman."

We shook hands formally. Then with that same twinkle in his eyes, Churchill added:—

"Norman—the man who won the U-boat war."

The Admiral opened his mouth and gulped.

He wasn't to know that this was the sequel to a great private joke between me and Mr Churchill.

One morning as he was dressing, I told him:—

"Those American claims are a load of bull."

He never allowed me to forget that I, a valet, had spoken so confidently on a subject I knew nothing about.

So by leg-pulling the Admiral he was really teasing me.

BUT LET'S GET BACK TO THAT NEW YORK VISIT IN THE QUEEN MARY.

Our stay was short.

Within a matter of hours we were flying to Washington in President Truman's plane.

But despite the seriousness of the visit—at that time British stock in America was low and Mr Churchill's job was to restore it—he never lost his sense of humour.

And he never minded who was the butt of his jokes.

I watched Sir Oliver Franks, the British Ambassador, blush beetroot red in the Washington Embassy one night.

It happened over the lift. I was taking the Guv'nor down to dinner in the lift, which always stopped below the level of the floor.

I tried to put it right by pressing the emergency stop button.

But I pressed it too early and we got stuck between floors.

The next night, as we stepped into the lift with Sir Oliver, Mr Churchill knocked my hand away from the controls.

"I'll drive the bloody thing tonight," he grunted.

THE inevitable happened. We got stuck again.

Sir Oliver took over and by pressing all sorts of buttons, got us down safely.

Mr Churchill stepped out, pulling hard at his cigar.

Then in front of everyone he turned to Sir Oliver and said:—

"That's an expensive lift if it needs an Ambassador to drive it."

After Washington we went on to Ottawa and then back to New York where Churchill had a few days' holiday.

And so did I. One night when my Guv'nor was dining with his great friend, the Duke of Windsor, I decided to slip out of the hotel.

As I reached the door a secretary stopped me. "Mr Churchill wants to see you before you go out," she said.

A few moments later Mr Churchill left the Duke at the dining table and came out to me.

I thought he had something important to tell me.

"Norman," he said, gravely, "I wanted to tell you to be careful in this New York traffic."



This historic picture shows the Churchills bathing at Venice, where Orson Welles seemed to study Churchill for a film part.

Guv'nor's room carrying his little bowl of soup on a silver tray.

I ran up meaning to snatch the tray and serve the soup myself. But an attendant stopped me and whispered: "That was the King."

I was flabbergasted.

There was King Frederik of Denmark—whose face I had never even seen—standing in for me.

What could I do? What could I say?

THE kitchen staff told me that the King had heard the commotion and decided to serve the soup himself.

I dreaded what would happen in the morning.

I expected an almighty racket, but next day Mr Churchill didn't say a word.

He just gave me a twinkling look.

I told me he was completely satisfied with the palace service, so I got on with my work with a lighter heart.

I was pressing a pair of Mr Churchill's pants when a man walked into the ante-room.

I thought he was another attendant—most of them spoke good English.

I had my sleeves rolled up and he could see my tattoos.

"I was in the Navy, too," said my visitor.

Soon we were swapping Navy yarns like old shipmates.

After a bit, he said: "I have some tattoos, also."

"Would you like to see them?" I nodded.

He stripped off his jacket and rolled up his shirt sleeves.

"THERE you are. What do you think of those?" he said proudly, pointing to a brightly coloured design of dragons and birds.

"And that's not all. I have a lot more on my chest," he added as he left the room.

A few hours later I saw my tattooed friend again. He was beside Mr Churchill, and he

I mentioned it to Mr Churchill—for I never had a uniform. His only comment was:—

"Never mind, Norman. After this visit you'll probably get a medal."

I didn't matter whether we were travelling by boat, plane or train—Mr Churchill always wanted his home comforts.

I remember a wonderful example of this when we were on our way to America. Mr Churchill was meeting President Truman for top level talks.

The first night out from Southampton he almost had the Queen Mary turned upside down.

He rang for me in the middle of the night.

"Norman," he said, "I can't sleep. There is a squeak behind that panel."

I listened carefully. It was only the normal creaking you get in any ship.

I tried to explain, but Mr Churchill cut me short.

"Get it fixed," he said crossly, "while I wait in my sitting room."

I felt a complete fool when I woke up the ship's engineers and carpenters.

We all trooped down to the Guv'nor's cabin to listen for the squeak.

"You've got to stop that creaking," I said. "Mr Churchill can't sleep."

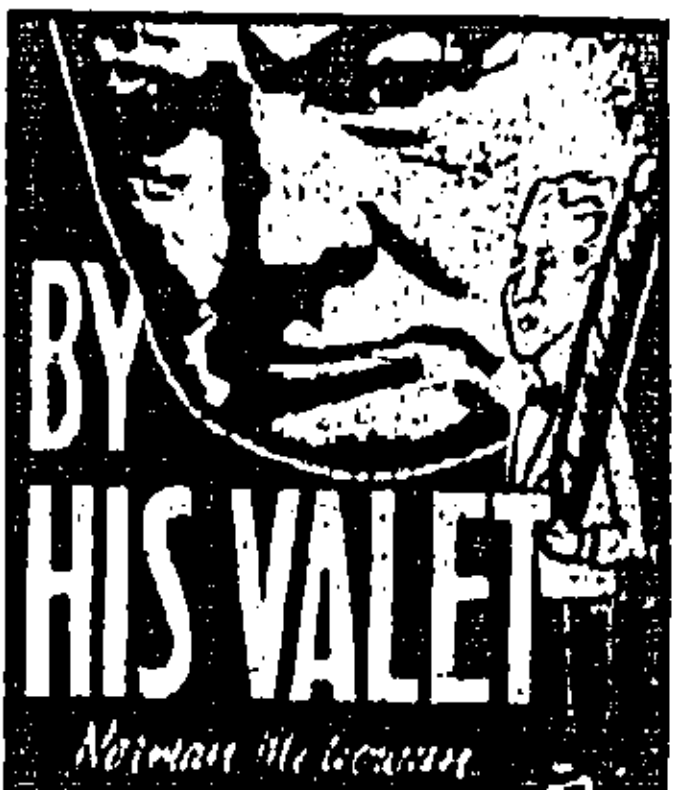
They looked at me in amazement.

After a long argument they put some packing behind the panels. But I could still hear the squeak faintly.

WHEN Mr Churchill came back he listened for a while and then said: "Well done, Norman. It's gone."

Who was I to argue?

During my four years as Mr Churchill's valet I saw many times his boyish delight at pricking any person or moment he thought pompous.



sine and began a breakfast drive back to the palace.

I cursed myself all the way. I was out of the car before it had stopped.

Uniformed footmen flung open the palace doors as we dashed in.

I took the stairs to Mr Churchill's room two at a time.

But I was too late.

I arrived just in time to see a figure disappearing into the

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KING FREDERIK OF DENMARK PROUDLY SHOWED HIS TATTOOS

"It's very dangerous. I was knocked down here some years ago."

Then he went back to the waiting Duke.

MY beloved Guv'nor showed the same concern for my welfare on the holiday trips we had together.

In Venice his first question was always: "Have you been for a swim yet?"

If I said, "No," he would tell me: "Well, trot off now and have one. I'll look after myself."

About this time there was a strong rumour that a film company was planning a film about the Guv'nor.

He got quite a kick out of the idea. Especially when Orson Welles seemed to be following him around.

They used to bow to each other in the hotel and then Orson Welles used to spend hours watching Mr Churchill's mannerisms from behind a newspaper or magazine.

The Guv'nor also used to bow to a man the local police believed was an assassin.

He was always quite calm in the face of any physical danger.

The most outstanding example I saw of his courage was when we were staying at a holiday hotel in Madeira in 1950.

Mr Churchill got a late night telephone call which told him the date of the General Election.

He insisted on flying back to England next day to be in the thick of the preliminary battles.

But next morning there was half a gale blowing and the skipper of the flying boat that was to take us home came to Mr Churchill's room.

"It's too rough to take off," he said with finality Mr Churchill walked to the window over looking the bay. He looked out for a moment. Then he turned and said:—

"It's not too rough, Norman. Get packed at once."

Mr Churchill was completely unconcerned.

LATER, he even decided to have an airborne bath in the special canvas bath we always carried around.

He splashed away quite happily as the plane bounced around in the sky.

He always told me he could think best in his bath.

Maybe that is why baths played such a big part in my service with Mr Churchill.

I WILL TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THEM TOMORROW—AND REVEAL THE SECRETS ABOUT BEDTIME AND BREAKFAST.



"Bad, there's a man from the Council for Children's Welfare at the front door."

• BY THE WAY •

by Beachcomber

THINGS being as they are, which, of course, in a sense, they must be, having regard to the various circumstances, it would seem that, apart from reaching some sort of agreement as to what is to be done, there must be an examination of any possible active measures which might have to be taken, in one way or another, when a conclusion had been arrived at.

This would necessitate a detailed inquiry into what exactly it is suggested should be the preliminary approach to any problem which may present itself for discussion.

To co-ordinate the whole thing, in such a way as to clarify the whole being done, would then be the aim of those entrusted with the task of keeping the matter under consideration.

In passing

COMFORTING talk of a missile which could travel at 10,000 miles an hour, and at

target 5,000 miles away, only to tell us about the missile which will counter the counter-missile, meeting it, as it were, half way. While the scientists are "detering" each other in this fashion, Dr. Strabismus (Whom God Preserve) of Utrecht has pointed out that the interception of one of these missiles by another in mid-air will be followed by certain unpleasant consequences for the people underneath, who may be harmless, neutrals, too poor, or too intelligent, to take part in the deterrent antics.

Dr. Rhubarb's corner
F.T. writes: We are overrun with mice. What can we do? Dr. Rhubarb says: Try over-turning the mice with you. Get all your neighbours and friends. In and make a row. Mice are timid and would at once withdraw to their lairs.

Oh, I say, look here!

I READ of a station platform in Hertfordshire which is so hot that passengers in the rear carriages have to jump down on the ground. This, from a news source, back vividly to my mind the occasion when a train topped one hundred of yards outside a small Essex town. A French general, swabed with a hat, though, he was in the station, and jumped out of a compartment into a heap of manure. "C'est magnifique," cried a cowherd, "mais ce n'est pas la date."

Twilight melody

The Police Marketing Bureau has nothing to say about

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• JACOBY ON BRIDGE •

Slam Depends On West Lead

By OSWALD JACOBY

AN old friend, Walter Malo, was, writes, "My six-club bid was a gamble. Needless to say I knew that my partner's three-club opening showed clubs and nothing else, so the opponents were marked with all the top cards in the red suits. A slam bid that depends on a simple finesse is never criticised and my theory is that this slam had a much better chance for success than one that depended on a finesse. As

NORTH 1
AK 10 8 6 5
Q 2
None
A 10 9 5 4

WEST EAST
AJ 7 3 Q 4
K J 7 5 A 7 4
K 8 2 Q J 9 5 4 3
7 2 None

SOUTH (D)
2
6 3
10 7 6
K Q J 8 6 3

East and West vulnerable
South West North East
3 Pass 6 Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead—♦ K

a matter of fact, I considered the bid as a really should have been made. The hand in the picture is a typical one for a slam bid. It is a matter of fact, I considered the bid as a really should have been made. The hand in the picture is a typical one for a slam bid.

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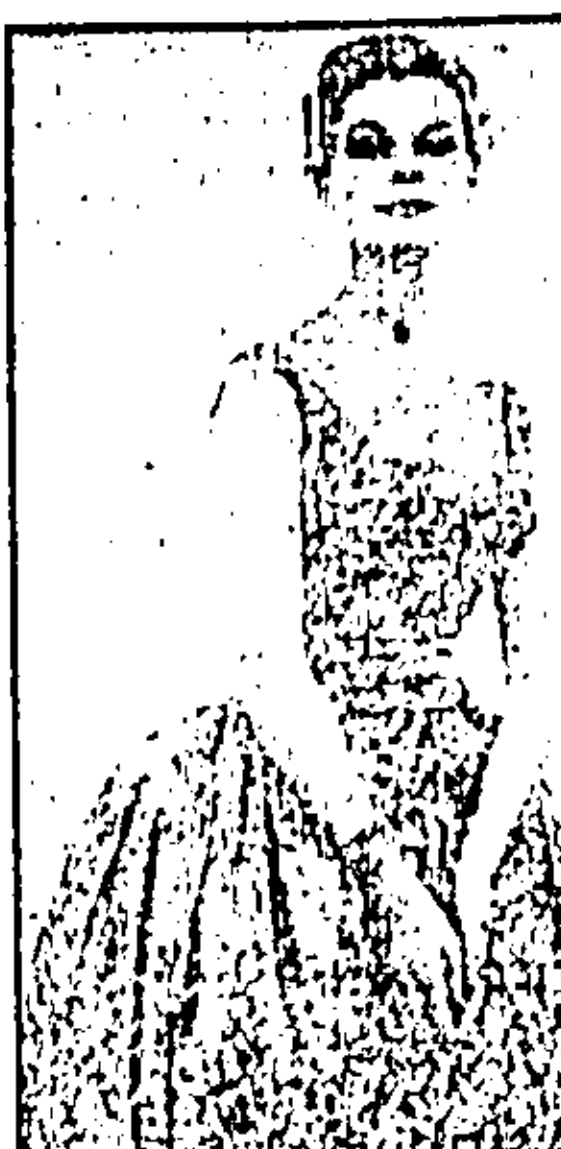
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WOMANSENSE

Here's What I Want For Christmas

Dresses In London



THE Christmas rush has begun, the Santa Clauses in the London stores are working top-speed, putting heads and hands over presents, and the magazines are full of well-meaning advice on what to give him and her.

All the virtuous people have their presents neatly parcelled up, but I'm staging a revolt against all this present-giving mania. I don't want anything useful.

I don't want dusters—even if they are silicone-treated—and I don't want a new set of kitchen tools, or a face flannel disguised as a mammy doll.

They must give me an arson I want it to be a fabulous one made from snow-white silk chiffon, decorated with dozens of frills, or in black lace with a big red rose on the pocket—though I might settle for a dressmaker's apron. I've seen with a built-up tape measure, reels of cotton and a pair of scissors.

I don't want stockings of the ordinary everyday kind—But I wouldn't refuse just one pair of those fabulous 8 denier party nylons with no toe or heel seaming. They wouldn't last five minutes but, oh, for the luxury of wearing them instead of service-weights!

hairdressing subscription could keep me happily blonde, having become blonde, all sorts of possibilities present themselves. Paris hair stylist Guillaume says that with hair as light as a cloud you can match

inzy to remember birthdays—you just tell him the date, and do the rest.

Mr. Lyle tells me that he played cupid to a British soldier and his girl-friend by sending flowers and presents at the appropriate times until they married, and last year he unravelled a practical joke home for the British scientist who had to spend Christmas on Christmas Island.

To keep out the cold and smog in London this winter they're buying up those Balalaeva helmets—head-hugging jersey caps that keep your throat warm as well. One store is selling them in warm vivid colours, trimmed round the edge with bells, like a jester's cap. Another has them up in jester-printed wool, with an oriental look about them.

Seen at a London dress show and crazy, but fun to wear for Christmas parties—a pony-tail of egret, or bird-of-paradise feathers, which clips onto your chignon.—Express.

His name is John Lyle and he runs an international flowers-and-present service, where the customers order through the post.

His service is ideal for people who are far away from home and have no chance to reach the shops and for those who are too

I'd even settle for a pair of party stockings decorated with tiny diamond crowns—vulgar, but rather fun.

Handkerchiefs are so dull even when they're designed as water-lilies in a gift box—but I wouldn't mind a really large spotted silk kerchief. I could tie it round my head to keep my hair tamed in open car rides.

Slippers may be warm and comfortable but just for once I'd like a pair that are different—with high, satin-covered heels and ostrich-feather fronts—the kind of slippers that all the had girls wear in films.

A raincoat would be acceptable—if I could have that one I saw at Paul Blanche's. It was a real beauty, with a fur collar and a belt that kept the rain off as well. Though it wouldn't give the purchaser much change out of a hundred pounds, two big stars fought to buy it.

I'd like pink hair for Christmas—why not? I'm tired of being dark, and a year's

BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

Catty's Big Problem

—Having So Many Relatives Complicates Things—

By MAX TRELL

CHIRPIE SPARROW came to the window all for his morning bread crumbs and Knarf and Hanid greeted him from inside the room.

"I just had an interesting adventure," said Chirpie, "or maybe I shouldn't say that. It was an adventure. It was more of a surprise. I just met someone wearing a disguise—an old friend of mine."

Interesting Yarn

This sounded like an interesting yarn. Knarf and Hanid asked Chirpie to tell them more about it.

"Fine. Glad to do it!" said Chirpie. "Only please give me a chance to finish the rest of these crumbs. I feel good and hungry this morning. There's a bit of sharpness in the air."

"That's because Autumn is on its way," said Hanid.

So Chirpie finished eating his bread crumbs. Presently after cleaning his bill, first on one side and then on the other, along the edge of the window, "Just like sharpening a knife," Knarf thought—Chirpie began his story.

"Now the most surprising thing about the disguise worn by this old friend of mine was that it made him look like a Butterfly!"

"You mean," Hanid exclaimed in surprise, "that your friend

was disguised as a Butterfly?"

"Right," nodded Chirpie. Knarf looked puzzled for a moment then suddenly he had an idea.

"Is your old friend a Caterpillar?"

It was Chirpie's turn to be surprised.

"How did you guess it?" said Chirpie, smiling at Knarf in admiration.

"All Caterpillars," said Knarf, "disguise themselves as Butterflies."

"Except," said Hanid, "that I don't think it's a disguise. Caterpillars become Butterflies."

Chirpie chuckled to himself in a Sparrowish manner.

"I remember some amusing things about Old Catty. He used to wonder why the people who owned the garden used to object to his nibbling the leaves."

"Just see here, Catty used to say, 'I am just one little Caterpillar and here this garden are trees and bushes and plants with millions and millions of leaves.'"

"That's a fact, Catty," I said. "You are just one little Caterpillar and there are millions and millions of leaves in this garden."

"What of it?"

"What of it is just this," said Catty. "I couldn't possibly eat all the leaves off all the trees and bushes and plants in this garden."

"I'm quite sure you couldn't," I said to Catty. "But you've got brothers and sisters, haven't you?"

"Yes, a few," said Catty.

"A few hundred you mean, don't you?" I said. "And you have uncles and aunts."

"A few," said Catty again.

"A few thousand you mean, don't you?" And you have cousins."

"A few," said Catty.

"A few millions you mean, don't you?"

"Millions of Relatives"

"Catty allowed as how he had hundreds of sisters and brothers, thousands of uncles and aunts and millions of cousins. So I told him," said Chirpie, "that if all the millions of leaves on the trees and bushes and plants

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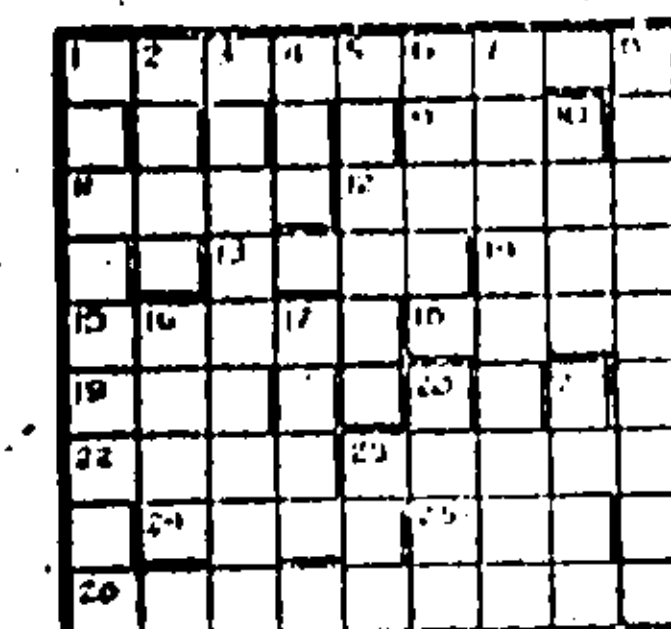
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CROSSWORD



1. Man of Deeds (5)
2. Colour (5)
3. Submarine (5)
4. Wire (5)
5. Thick skin (5)
6. Denature (5)
7. Dapper (5)
8. Sooty (5)
9. Intended (5)
10. Space (5)
11. Not here (5)

Down
1. One piece of another (5)
2. Scottish river (5)
3. The mythical London (5)
4.

'PRINCE' ROBBINS RULED VARSITY GAME

Sports Diary

TODAY

Meeting
HKFA Council Meeting, Sports
Road, 5.45 p.m.
Bridge
Combination Pair Bridge Tourney,
JMC, 1.30 p.m.

TOMORROW

Meeting
HKFA Selection Committee Meeting
at Sports Road, 6.30 p.m.
Athletics
Le Salle College Annual Athletics
Meeting at Boundary Street, 1.30
p.m.
Physical Display
New Milton College Physical Dis-
play at South China Stadium, 11 p.m.
Badminton
Men's 1st Division: RAF v
Kowloon Tong, KTC v St Stephen's.

TABLE TENNIS

London, Dec. 16.
The English Table Tennis
Federation has invited Japan,
Russia, China, Hungary,
Romania to compete in the
English Table Tennis Cham-
pionships here next March. It
was announced here today.—
France-Press.

Macao's Team For Lobo Cup Against Colony

Macao, Dec. 16.
The following schoolboys
have been selected to take
part in the bi-annual school-
boys tennis interport against
their Hongkong counterpart,
scheduled for December 20-21.
So far, Hongkong boys have
won twice against Macao's
once. The trophy, Lobo Cup,
is in the hands of the Hong-
kong players.
The Macao team is as follows:
F. M. Rodrigues (Capt.), L.
Rodrigues, C. A. Jones, R. A.
Conceicao, E. B. Silva, A. G.
Andrade, F. A. Branan, L. F.
Natalio, A. P. Marques, J. C.
C. Calves, H. C. Calves and
Jorge B. Silva.—France-Press.

HOME RUGBY

London, Dec. 16.
Cambridge University beat
Edinburgh University by 23
points to three in a Rugby
Union match played today.—
Reuter.

RANDOLPH TURPIN TO FIGHT PASTRANO

First Bout As Heavyweight

London, Dec. 16.
Britain's former World Middleweight Boxing
Champion, Randolph Turpin, will probably fight his
first heavyweight bout against America's fourth
world-ranking heavyweight, Willie Pastrano, in the
English Midlands on February 5, it was announced
here today.

The fight will be held at Birmingham or Lei-
cester.

A Boxing Lesson

Twenty-one-year-old Pastrano, from New
Orleans, who recently gave the British heavyweight
hope, Dick Richardson, a boxing lesson here, has
accepted the meeting on the condition that if he
loses Turpin will give him the return fight at Mad-
ison Square Garden in New York.—France-Press.

Scrum Weakness Was Cambridge Achilles Heel

Oxford Uni....3 Cambridge Uni....0

By ROY McKELVIE

Peter Robbins, wonderfully supported by
the other Oxford forwards, gave a
display that may have earned him
the England captaincy. He showed
himself to be a prince of wing forwards,
possessing immense strength and re-
markable positional sense, in this
annual Inter-Varsity match.

Not far behind him on December 10 at Twicken-
ham were his back-row colleagues, Robin
Davies and Steve Wilcock, whose major con-
tribution was the subjection of the Cam-
bridge scrum-half, Andy Mulligan, who can
rarely have had an unhappier afternoon.



When centre meets centre... Oxford's Laurie
Watts comes across to challenge a Mike Hartley
breakthrough.

Donald Campbell Making Plans For Land Record

London, Dec. 16.
Donald Campbell, already the
fastest man on water, is making
long range plans to become the
fastest man on land as well.
He said he hoped to shatter
the existing speed record for
automobiles, driving a turbo-
jet car over the Utah Salt Flats.
Campbell's car is not off the
drawing board yet. But the
Dunlop company is about to
start tests with special tyres
capable of bearing the strain of
speeds up to 450 miles per
hour—almost 50 m.p.h. more
than the recognised mark of
405.135 m.p.h. set by John
Cobb of Britain in 1947.
Campbell's car was not ex-
pected to be ready before 1961.
—United Press.

John Charles For Wales-Israel World Cup Tie?

London, Dec. 16.
The Welsh Football Federation
will ask the Italian "Juventus"
football team for the loan of
transferred Welsh star John
Charles for the Wales-Israel
qualifying match of the World
Football Cup. It was announced
here today.
The six-foot centre-forward
was transferred from Leeds to
"Juventus" this year for
£25,000.
Wales will make this bid for
Charles following their luck in
yesterday's draw at Zurich when
they were pulled out of the hat
to play Israel in the final qual-
ifying round match for the final
to be played in Sweden next
year.
Israel qualified from the
African-Asian zone without
playing a match.
Wales finished second in the
European Group Four.—France-
Press.

Final Count In Florence Soccer Railing Collapse

Florence, Dec. 16.
More than 100 persons were
injured in yesterday's Florence
soccer stadium railing collapse,
a final count showed today.
The accident occurred during
the second half of a dramatic
League game between Fiorentina
and Juventus. Fans were pushing
forward excitedly when the iron
railing gave way and more than
100 persons toppled forward.
A total of 105 fans were given
first aid treatment in Florence
and neighbouring hospitals.—
United Press.

23 Nations Enter European Basketball Championships

Munich, Dec. 16.
The men's 1958 European
Basketball Championships will
be held at Istanbul in May, the
International Basketball Federa-
tion decided at its Congress held
over the week-end at Garmisch-
near here.
The delegates of 22 nations
attending the Congress also
decided to organize 76 meetings
and international tournaments in
1958 as well as the first European
Basketball Cup for champion
teams.
Twenty-three countries have
already given their agreement
to the European Cup.—France-
Press.

Sheffield Shield Look Like Following On

Perth, Dec. 16.
New South Wales, 246 for
nine wickets in reply to West-
ern Australia's 532 for eight
declared, look like following on
in their Sheffield Shield cricket
match here.
Summarized scores after three
of the four days' play:
Western Australia 532 for
eight declared (J. Rutherford
160, B. Shepherd 85, M. Vernon
71, L. Sawle 48, K. Meuleman
33, M. O'Neill 3-52). New South
Wales 245 for nine.
New South Wales who have
won the Sheffield Shield 29 times,
including the last four seasons,
were in trouble against the West
Australian bowling throughout
the day.
Syd Carroll, an opening bat,
was dismissed in the third over
of the day and on a easy paced
wicket, which looked full of
runs, fast bowlers Gerring,
Horrie and Grant shared eight
wickets among them.
A feature of the innings was
the excellent Shield debut by
Roy Watson, Western Aus-
tralia's wicket keeper, who has
so far taken four catches.—
China Mail Special.

Sir Jack Hobbs Celebrates His 75th Birthday

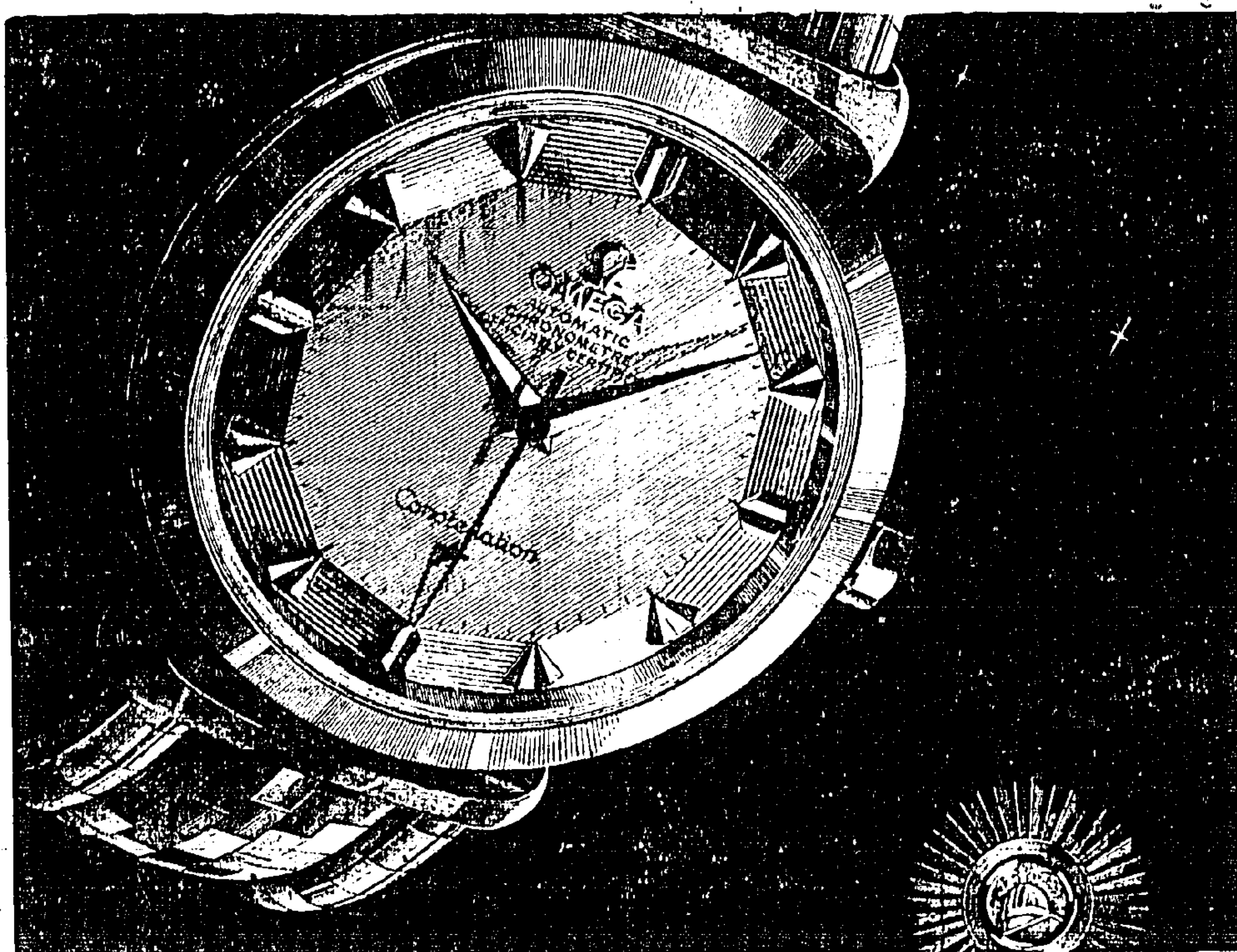
London, Dec. 16.
Sir Jack Hobbs, the former
Surrey and England batsman,
celebrated his 75th birthday
today.
He attended a luncheon in
his honour in London. Among
the guests were several of his
famous contemporaries, includ-
ing Patsy Hendren and Titch
Freeman.
Sir Jack played 61 times for
England—41 against Australia.
His aggregate of 61,237 runs
during his career from 1903 to
1934 is the highest made by
any first-class cricketer, and no
one has exceeded his total of
197 centuries.
He was the first professional
cricketer to be knighted, receiving
the honour in 1953.—China
Mail Special.

P.I.-Belgium Tennis Exhibition Match Off

Manila, Dec. 17.
The Philippine-Belgium ex-
hibition tennis tie, scheduled
here late this month, has been
cancelled due to the illness of
Jacques Brichant's wife, the
Philippine Amateur Athletic
Federation announced last night.
The Belgian Davis Cup team,
which lost to America in Aus-
tralia, will just make a brief
stopover here following Bri-
chant's decision to join his wife.
It was added.—France-Press.

IRELAND-ITALY WORLD CUP MATCH ON JANUARY 15

Belfast, Dec. 16.
Wednesday, January 15, as
the date for the World Cup
soccer match between Ireland
and Italy was confirmed as
suitable today by the Irish
Football Association.
The original game, on
December 4, was played as a
friendly match because Hun-
garian officials for the match,
who arrived in Belfast, did not
arrive in time.—China Mail
Special.



In step with the stars

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HIS FIFTH BATTING CROWN

Chicago, Dec. 16. Ted Williams of the Red Sox picked up his fifth American League batting crown to-

Sixth Time Lucky For British Boxer Against Indian

London, Dec. 16. It was a case of sixth time lucky for the English boxer, Garry Parker of Norwich, who outpointed the Indian professional, Puncho Bhattachaji, over eight rounds in a flyweight boxing match tonight at Great Yarmouth.

Bhattachaji won the first four encounters against Parker, but, after being disqualified in the fifth, challenged his opponent to another contest with a £25 stake.

This time Parker won convincingly. The Indian went all out for an early finish but Parker, boxing coolly and using his left cleverly, gradually took control and was well on top in the closing rounds.—France-Press.

CZECHS WIN

Nottingham, Dec. 16. The touring Czechoslovakian ice hockey team outplayed Nottingham Panthers to win 6-2 here tonight.

Period scores were 1-0, 4-0, 1-2.—China Mail Special.

day for a 368 average that was the highest mark in the majors since 1941 when he, himself, hit .408.

The 39-year-old Williams, oldest player ever to win the title in the history of the League, did it with a flourish, batting a near-incredible .632 during the final month of the campaign.

Williams collected 163 hits in 429 official times, according to official figures released by the Howe News Bureau.

The two other "Jewels" in baseball's triple crown went to slugging Roy Sievers of Washington, who led the League in runs batted in with 114, and in home runs with 42.

Mickey Mantle of the Yankees, winner of the triple crown in 1956, had a crack at it again this year until he fell victim to injuries near the end of the campaign. Even so, he wound up second to Williams in batting with .305 and led the League in runs scored, with 121.—United Press.

These Degrading Flare-Ups Must Stop—FIFA Should Stamp Out Rough Play

Says TOM FINNEY

FIFA, international football's governing body, does a great job for world soccer, but it should act now, and ruthlessly, to stamp out any possible flare-ups in the World Cup Finals. There are just six months before the top countries play off for the trophy. Whatever else happens, we cannot afford any unseemly battles on the field, or off it.

The world's soccer nations must realise that football is a game. It is meant to be enjoyed. We all like to win, but it is not a national disaster if we lose.

Football can stand any more flare-ups—such as occurred in the Ireland v. Italy "friendly" in Belfast.

I don't know why it is, but in my experience it is the Latin and South American countries which seem to be involved most in these incidents on the field. It is a shame that it should be

so, for they produce some of the finest footballers in the world. Yet as soon as they are on the losing end in a game, the balloon goes up. Fists start flying, players kick out wildly, and their supporters scream and resticulate.

I've had some of it. My career was nearly ended a few years ago in South America when a full-back came right over the top of the ball, without making the slightest attempt to play it, and lashed out at my shin.

I Suffered

I still marvel how my leg wasn't broken. There was not the slightest excuse. It was just wild play. My stockings were ripped off my leg by the kick, my shin was torn, and for months afterwards I suffered with it when it turned septic.

Even then, I suppose I was lucky. I have seen Nat Lofthouse get the shirt torn from his back; I have seen Stan Matthes have his legs swept from underneath him and heaved when the ball was nowhere near him.

I hope I am no cissy player. In English football we have our "toughies"—the boys who bowl you over, who kick at you when the ball has gone, who bring you down from behind

when you are through—but basically the British game is based on the giving and taking of hard knocks and fair shoulder charges.

When I look back over my experiences, what a proud record the English team has abroad. And I would say that goes for the Welsh, Irish and Scots as well.

I don't think you could honestly say that any of the Home countries have ever gone abroad and started a real rough house of a game. In fact, in most cases, they "bond over backwards" and lay-off legitimate shoulder charging so as to avoid any serious disturbances.

Source Of Trouble

Football can be a great aid to understanding between the nations. So can all sports. But there is another side of the coin. Sport can cause plenty of trouble between countries when hot-heads are loose on the field, and when players are so afraid of losing that they forget all sense of decency, fair play and sportsmanship.

I feel strongly about this because I would like the World Cup Finals in Stockholm to be a resounding success; a truly great sporting occasion of which all the football nations can feel proud, whoever may win the World Cup.

What, then, is the answer? How can we set about avoiding scuffles and brawls such as were seen in Belfast, and the infamous "Battle of Berne" between Brazil and Hungary in the last World Cup series?

I felt sick when I saw that game in Berne, when players were jumping four or five yards at an opponent with wild lunges that could break a man's leg.

I believe that FIFA, which does so much, should now call together all the referees who have charge of the World Cup matches and should put them through a course of instruction on how the laws should be applied.

They should be told that at the first sign of rough play they should not hesitate to send a man off.

If anyone is sent off, the referees should be told that they will have the full backing of FIFA and see that the culprit is punished properly.

Team managers of all competing teams should sit in at these conferences and be informed on how their players are expected to behave.

Different Way

For, in truth, most of these "wars" on the football field are caused because the different countries interpret the laws in a different way.

In Britain every player is accustomed to receiving shoulder charges when going for the ball. He can take that with a grin, because he is playing the ball and he can charge back.

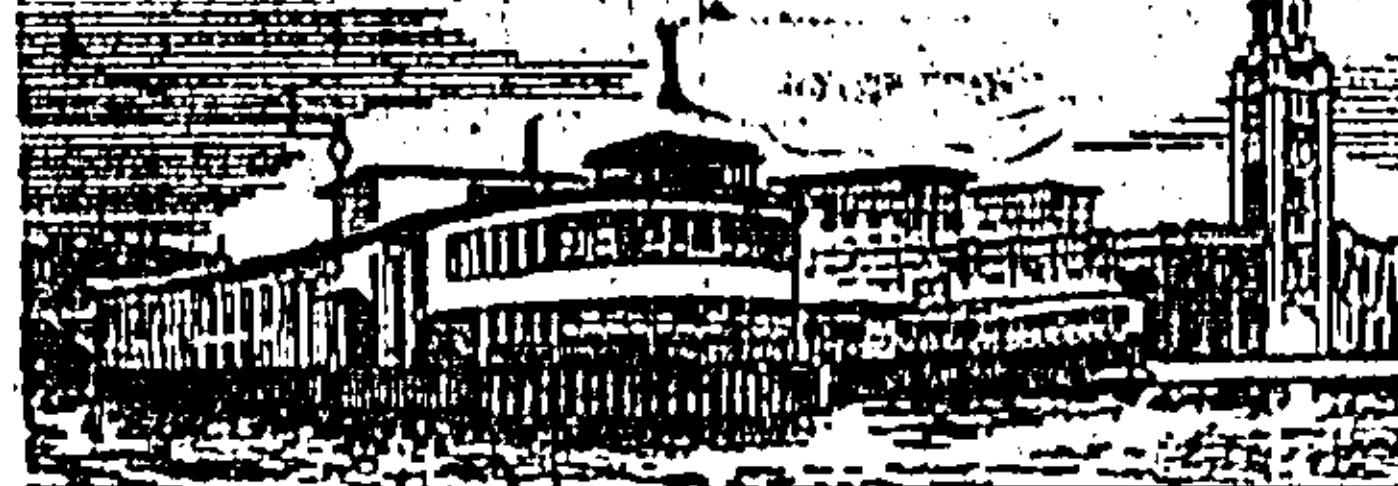
But the British player loathes and detests the habit practised by so many Continentals of grabbing a man's shirt, or body checking. It is so irritating, when a nice move is developing, to have it halted by an opponent adopting a body check which prevents you playing the ball. Continental referees, who are used to this method of stopping a man, very often let it go, yet penalise a fair charge. Fortunately, a bright feature is that in recent years the visits of Continental referees to these shores have raised their standards tremendously. Some of the best referees I have seen in recent years have come from Germany, Hungary and other European nations.

So let's all get together on this. Let the player in every national side realise he is representing his country, and that any bad sportsmanship from him is a slur on his country; let the team managers, for their part, also stamp out the "toughies" in their teams. Let the referees be "iron men" clamping down on any rough play, and let FIFA make it plain that any nonsense in these matches will meet with severe but just punishment.

Soccer is a sport. Let's go out to win. But for heaven's sake let's play it sporting, and not be afraid to lose to a better team.

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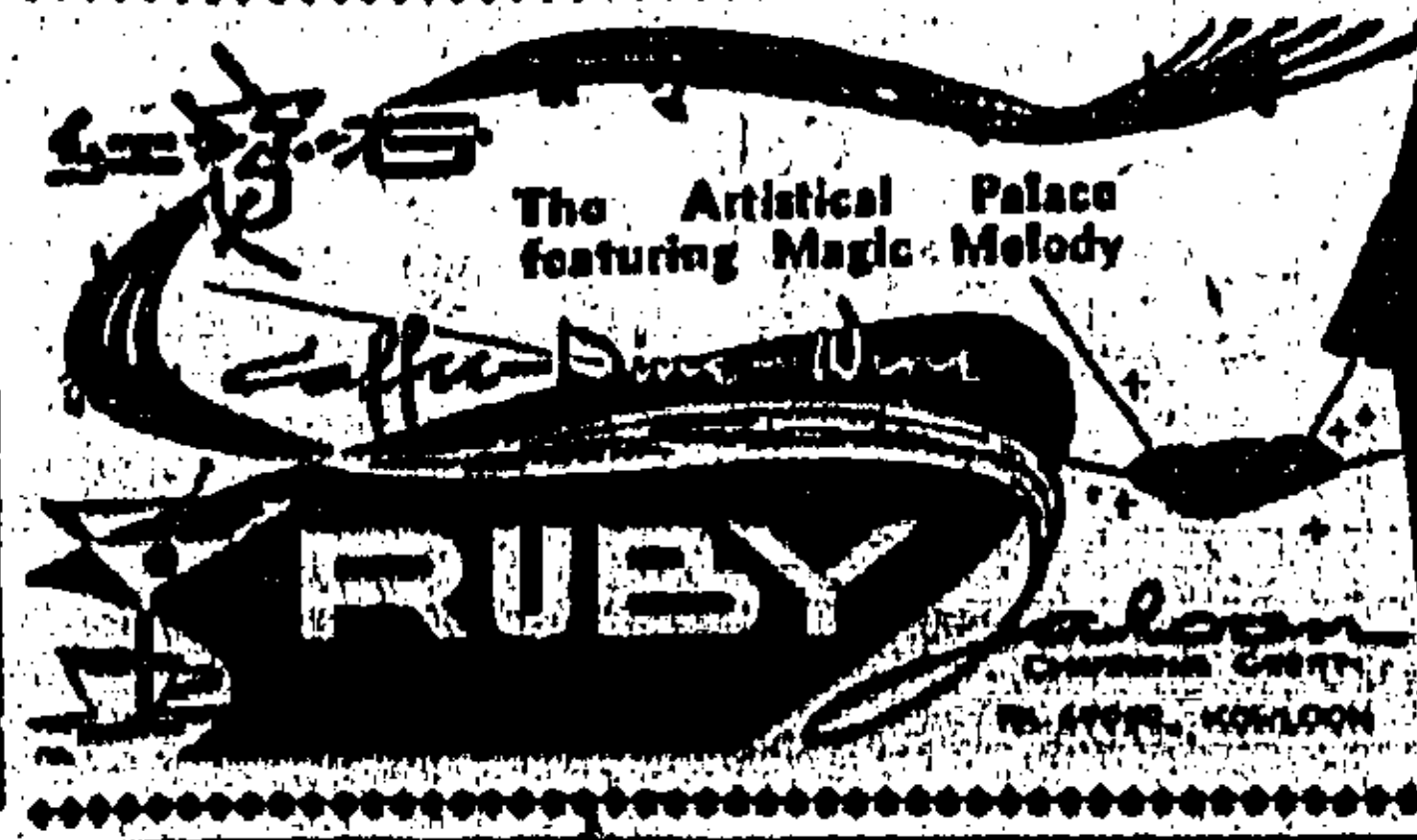
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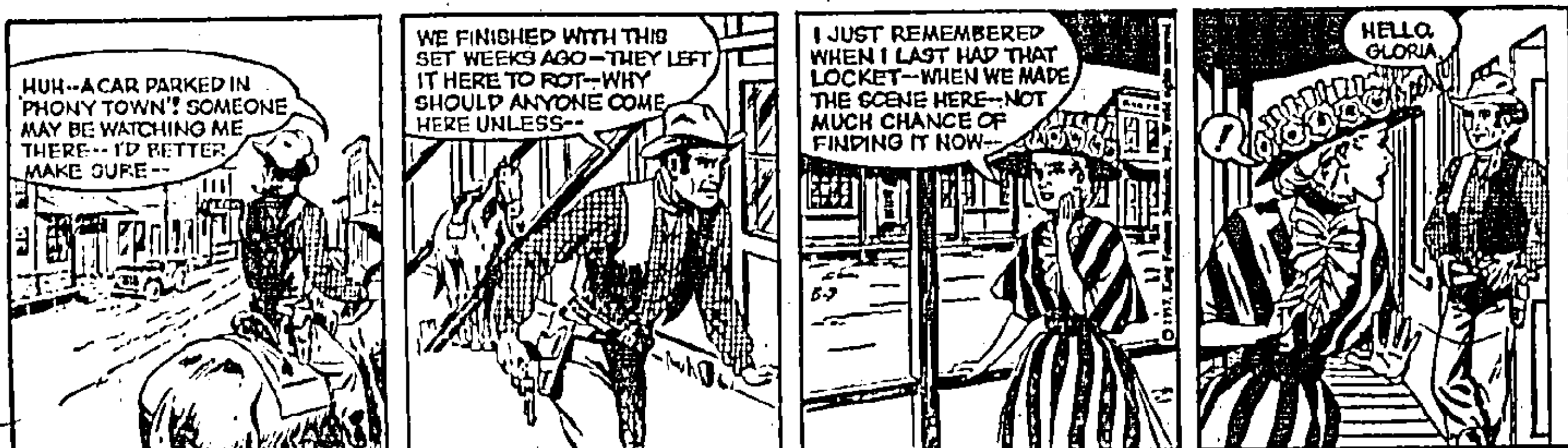
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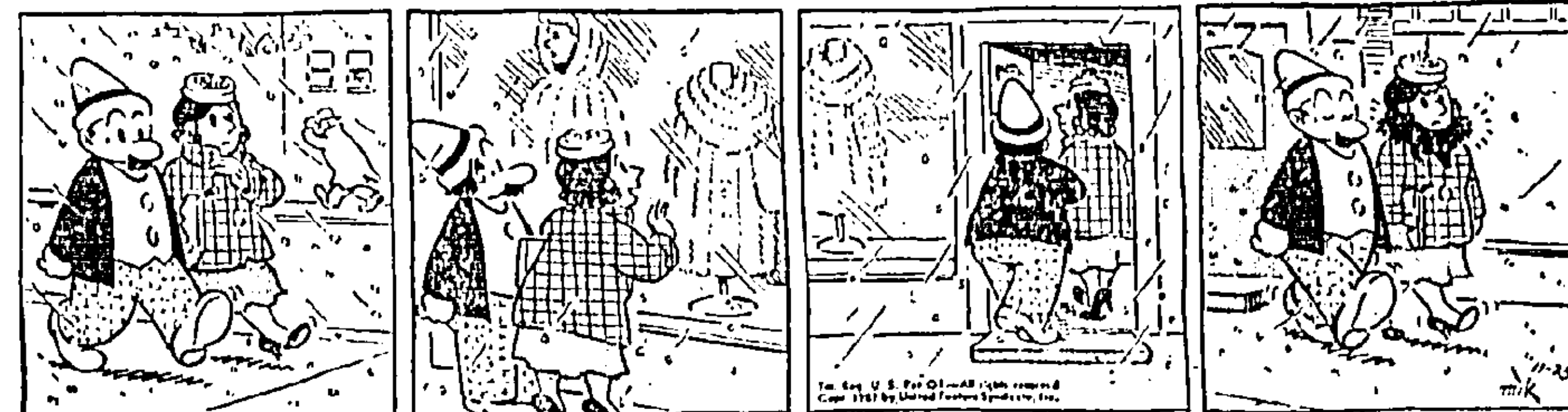
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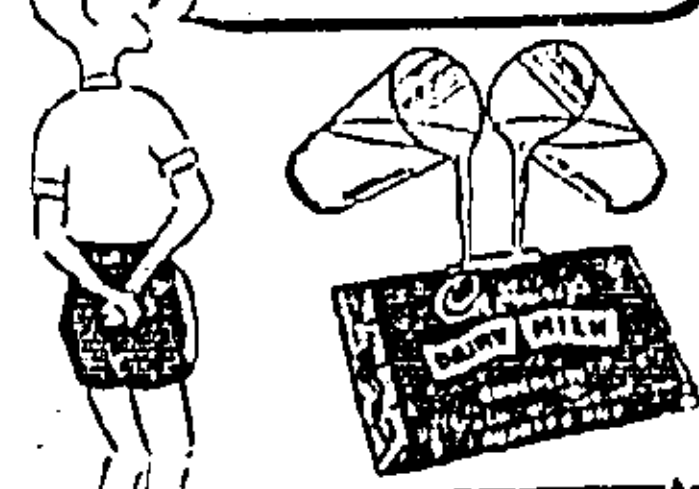


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H. King Wood Reports In Our Australian Newsletter:

STOWAWAY GROWS UP AND TO GET MARRIED VERY SOON

Sydney (By Airmail).

It was in 1946 that officials at Darwin airport found wedged near the engine of a Dutch Dakota the badly burned body of a boy who had stowed away from Koepang.

He was 12-year-old Bas Wic who was rushed to hospital and spent four months there recovering from burns. Darwin "adopted" him. Later he was taken to Government House where he worked for many years in the gardens and later joined the Department of Works in Darwin. One day "very soon" he is to marry Margaret Brown, 18, of Perth, who is also employed in the Department of Works. They are to be married by Father Frank Flynn in Darwin's St. Mary's Catholic Church where Bas was once an altar boy.

A New Bike

His foster mother, Mrs. Norman Ballard, admitted that Bas will marry soon, but refused to give details because they "don't want publicity."

Bas made his first visit out of the Territory recently when he went to Perth to meet Margaret's parents.

While on the question of Darwin, there is an interesting little story about 74-year-old Tony Pettieull who is returning soon to his homeland—Italy.

Tony has worked for Qantas in Darwin for more than 12 years and has become the company's first employee to retire from the Darwin staff.

For the last 12 years he has only one hobby—pushing a bike around the miles of Darwin's flat streets.

He averaged not more than two miles an hour, for Darwin is a hot place, Tony is getting old and there is never any hurry anyway.

Kramer's Troupe
 Each time he passed Qantas Darwin manager in his car, Tony would lift himself in the pedals and bow deeply.

When Tony announced that he was going back to Rome, Qantas employees in Darwin began taking up a collection and when Tony arrives he will be handed by the manager of Qantas Rome office a brand new bicycle with all the trimmings.

Jack Kramer's professional tennis players have been attracting lukewarm crowds to their matches at White City and it

is quite obvious that all the publicity build-ups in the world will not convince people that the Kramer brand of tennis is the real answer to big tennis.

The play was hard and fast enough, but it did not have the interest of any major tournament nor was it interesting to a lot of people, the story of "winning something worthwhile was missing."

There was no championship, no cup, nothing hinged on the result at all except a few extra pounds for a number of young men already grossly overpaid and to whom an extra few pounds means very little.

Kramer, no doubt, will go on attracting the crowds only because the names of the people he has playing tennis for him and not for any startling result that one is likely to witness during the match.

It is a long, long mile behind championship tennis for holding interest.

Incidentally, the Lawn Tennis Association did quite nicely out of the three-day tournament on its courts.

It will net at least £2,500 from the takings which, over the three days, are estimated to have totalled about £12,000.

Bush Fire Fund
 Quite a number of heads of Sydney organisations have sent a letter to their clients saying that they do not propose this year to hand out Christmas presents as they have done previously.

Instead, the money is being sent to bush fire relief funds.

Australian secondary industries are annoyed that they are not represented on Australian currency.

At present the only industries depicted are sheep, cattle, wheat and fruit.

Now the Director of the Associated Chambers of Manufacturers, Mr. H. W. C. Anderson, has asked the Federal Government to depict secondary industries on one Australian note.

The visit of US Navy ships to Sydney has grown into a million dollar industry, a bank official said this week.

Provisioning of the ships and the money spent by the ratings was worth just over a million dollars to NSW this year, he said.

Thirty US Navy ships, including a 48,000-ton aircraft carrier, have so far visited Sydney in the last 12 months.

Four destroyers sailed from Sydney this week after a five-day stay. They were manned by 1,092 men and the bank official estimated that each man spent \$30 while in Sydney.

When ships come from the Antarctic, as many of them do these days, the spending per head jumps to about \$50.

So far about 15,000 sailors have visited Sydney since the beginning of the year.

Kishi's Visit

The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Kishi, flew out of Canberra last week and Government officials, security police, embassy officials and, no doubt, senior ministers, greeted collective signs of relief.

The visit of the Japanese Prime Minister and his large party had progressed more smoothly than could have been expected, but it was a tour of tension and fixed smiles.

Government officials agree that he was Australia's most controversial visitor for many long years and a great deal of thought was given to his itinerary.

It would be safe to say that no visit from a VIP of any foreign country has received the attention and planning of this one.

Much Hinged

Much hinged on the fact that Mr. Kishi was a guest of the Governor-General, Sir William Slim, whose name has long been associated with the Burma Campaign where troops suffered at the hands of the Japanese as seriously as any troops in the war.

The fact that all did go so well with really no serious incidents of any description, especially extremely well of how thoroughly the planners did their jobs.

The NSW Railways Department is offering for sale 12 cash registers at what they describe as "special" prices.

The only thing wrong with them is that they will only register up to 9/11½ and, as most people know, 9/11½ these days is very little use on a cash register.

Jack Webb As "The D.I."

"THE D.I." which comes to the Queen's and Alhambra this afternoon is one of those service pictures, the interest lies within yourself, you either like them or you don't.

This Warner Bros release has Jack Webb as a drill instructor faced with the difficult job of training a squad of young men into the rough and tough leather-necks the fighting Marines demand.

The role of Top Sergeant Jim Moore is a particularly fascinating one for Jack Webb who, makes a point of casting himself in unusual roles. TV viewers know him quite well through the "Dragnet" programme.

Don Dubbins, Jackie Loughrey, (a pretty newcomer to the screen) Lin McCarthy, Monica



JACK WEBB

Lewis, Virginia Gregg, and men from the United States Marine Corps make up the cast.

The film primarily concerns itself with the struggles of a battle-hardened marine drill instructor who is faced with the task of hardening a group of newly recruited youths into a fighting unit within only a few weeks.

A task is made more difficult by an unco-operative recruit who threatens to destroy the sergeant's enviable service record.

Here the picture ceases to make sense to the English serviceman for he would know just how to deal with this type of man. However, if it were not for this bold type, the film would fold up.

Monica Lewis, a girl with a song, plays the role of a morale boosting lady who sings at a nightclub near the depot.

Jackie Loughrey, the pretty young lady is, of course, Webb's girl friend. So there is the picture, easy on the eye, undemanding of any mental strain, following the conventional path as straight as an arrow. Such is "The D.I."

NEW FILMS by ANTHONY FULLER

'Secret Formula' To Cure Nation's Ills

Manila, Dec. 17.
 The Central Bank Governor, Miguel Cuaderno, under Congressional fire due to the Philippines' dwindling dollar reserves, yesterday told Senate investigators that he had a "secret formula" to cure this country's economic plight.

Although the nature of this formula was not disclosed, Central Bank sources said it would heavily hinge on a huge stabilisation fund loan from the United States to be secured by a mission he would head.

CAST DOUBTS
 Cuaderno, however, following repeated questioning that tended to cast doubts on the Central Bank's ability to administer this country's monetary policies, said he was "ready to step out."

Meanwhile, President Carlos Garcia yesterday categorically denied that not over one dollar was left of this country's international reserve, and said that there were still US\$40,000,000 left.

Garcia said that this latter amount was precariously low and as a result he had to institute austerity measures such as drastic slashes in imports.—Transo-Press.

NEW ZEALAND MAY ABOLISH LIFE SENTENCE

Wellington, Dec. 16.

Sentences of life imprisonment will, with few exceptions, be abolished in New Zealand if, following the change of Government, the new Crimes Bill is considered by the new Parliament as originally planned.

The Bill, the outcome of the first comprehensive review of the criminal law in 60 years, was introduced by the National Government shortly before Parliament went into recess in October.

Among other things, the new Bill would abolish life imprisonment, formerly applicable to 50 crimes, and substitute sentences of 14 years imprisonment or less. Life imprisonment, which is still not defined, would be retained only in cases where the death penalty has been commuted, although there is still provision for unlimited preventive detention, which can mean a life sentence for a second serious sexual offence.

Discussed

If the new Parliament passes the Bill, it will come into force on January 1, 1969.

When he introduced the Bill in the old Parliament, the then Minister of Justice, Mr. Jack Marshall, said that there would be time for it to be openly discussed and subjected to the close scrutiny of the judiciary and the legal profession before it came before the House of Representatives again next year.

The Bill has been in the planning stages for so many years and has already been subject to so much expert opinion that it is unlikely now to arouse much criticism from either side of the House.

The press has generally welcomed the measure, with reservations on the more lenient penalties for crimes against property.

One of the purposes of the Bill is to restore a more modern balance between the penalties for offences against the person and the penalties for offences against property.

Thus, the maximum penalties for such crimes as theft and robbery are in general reduced, because they are not regarded in quite the same severe light today as they were in the nineteenth century, when property had a more elevated status.

Overall, the Bill decreases more penalties than it increases and its effect is to make the criminal law more liberal. The abolition of life imprisonment, however, is not as liberal a step as it might appear.

For some time 14 years' imprisonment has, to all intents and purposes, been the term served by the offenders sentenced to "life" terms. The Bill as introduced by the National Government makes no change in the death penalty, which remains for murder, treason, piracy and piratical acts. But both the National and the Labour party, in opposition, promised during the election campaign to abolish capital punishment if elected at the November polls.

Originally, the National party had made plans to hold a referendum at the same time as the election to decide the future of the death penalty in New Zealand. But that idea was abandoned. Instead, it was announced that if it was rejected, it would introduce a Bill into Parliament limiting the death penalty to certain classes of murder, on lines similar to the law in Britain. Members, it added, would be allowed to vote on the measure on a non-party basis.

Traditional

The Labour party's traditional view is that the death penalty should be abolished. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Walter Nash, stated during the election campaign, however, that Labour, if elected, would allow a free vote on the issue.

The new Crimes Bill retains the death penalty but makes changes in the law relating to murder. The law under which provocation may be held to excuse murder to manslaughter is extended to include "a wrongful course of conduct" if it should deprive the offender of self-control.

Murder may also be reduced to manslaughter if the jury is

satisfied by the defence that accused, though not legally insane, was suffering at the time from a condition so near to insanity that he could not be held fully responsible.

It is the first time that this provision appears in the New Zealand legal code, although it is an established principle in other countries.

For some crimes, penalties are substantially increased in the new Bill, particularly for offences against children and certain sex offences. For example, the maximum penalty for conspiracy to induce sexual intercourse is raised from two years to five; the penalty for intercourse with an idiot or imbecile woman, from two years to seven; and that for intercourse or indecency with a girl between 12 and 16, from five years to seven.

One of the most controversial features of the Bill is its reduction of the maximum penalty for acts of perversion or indecency between males, from ten years to five.

Perversion

On the other hand, for the first time, penalties are provided for acts of indecency or perversion between an adult woman and a girl. A seven-year sentence is provided for this offence.

Both these new provisions are in line with similar steps taken in Britain. The Bill also creates a number of new crimes.

Sabotage appears for the first time, with a maximum penalty of ten years. Drug peddling, with a penalty of 14 years for supplying persons under 21, and wilfully infecting a person with a disease, also with a penalty of 14 years, are other new offences.

In addition to changing penalties, the new Bill clarifies such matters as the police power of arrest and the jurisdiction of New Zealand courts over persons committing offences outside New Zealand.—China Mail Special.

MAIL Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for unregistered correspondence posted at G.P.O., Hongkong. The latest times for registered mail, which, in general, are earlier than the G.P.O. times can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17
 By Air
 Thailand, India, Pakistan, Middle East, East Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 6 p.m.
 Canada, U.S.A., 6 p.m.
 Hawaii, 6 p.m.
 Korea, 6 p.m.
 By Surface
 Japan, Canada, 3 p.m.
 Korea, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
 By Air
 Formosa, Okinawa, Japan, 10 a.m.
 India, Pakistan, Middle East, East Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 11 a.m.
 Indo-China, France, 1 p.m.
 Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, 1 p.m.
 Hawaii, U.S.A., Canada, 6 p.m.
 Formosa, Korea, 6 p.m.
 Last, 6 p.m.

By Surface
 China, People's Republic, 7 a.m.
 Malaysia, Ceylon, India, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain & Europe, Noon.
 U.S.A., 1 p.m.
 Philippines, Italy (Netherlands & Germany, France direct), 3 p.m.
 Pakistan (Malé via Bombay), 3 p.m.
 India, Korea via Karachi, 3 p.m.
 Macao, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19
 By Air
 Peking, Shanghai, Hankow, Kuning, Hothow, 1 a.m.
 Thailand, 6 a.m.
 Japan, 6 p.m.
 By Surface
 China, People's Republic, 7 a.m.
 Malaysia, Ceylon, India, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain & Europe, Noon.
 U.S.A., 1 p.m.
 Philippines, Italy (Netherlands & Germany, France direct), 3 p.m.
 Pakistan (Malé via Bombay), 3 p.m.
 India, Korea via Karachi, 3 p.m.
 Macao, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
 By Air
 China, People's Republic, 7 a.m.
 Malaysia, Ceylon, India, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain & Europe, Noon.
 U.S.A., 1 p.m.
 Philippines, Italy (Netherlands & Germany, France direct), 3 p.m.
 Pakistan (Malé via Bombay), 3 p.m.
 India, Korea via Karachi, 3 p.m.
 Macao, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
 By Air
 China, People's Republic, 7 a.m.
 Malaysia, Ceylon, India, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain & Europe, Noon.
 U.S.A., 1 p.m.
 Philippines, Italy (Netherlands & Germany, France direct), 3 p.m.
 Pakistan (Malé via Bombay), 3 p.m.
 India, Korea via Karachi, 3 p.m.
 Macao, 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
 By Air
 China, People's Republic, 7 a.m.
 Malaysia, Ceylon, India, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain & Europe, Noon.
 U.S.A., 1 p.m.
 Philippines, Italy (Netherlands & Germany, France direct), 3 p.m.
 Pakistan (Malé via Bombay), 3 p.m.
 India, Korea via Karachi, 3 p.m.
 Macao, 6 p.m.

China Mail Entertainment Guide

WHAT'S ON TONIGHT

KING'S & PRINCESS: "Jeanne Eagels." Kim Novak and Jeff Chandler in the Roaring Twenties.

QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA: "The D.I." Jack Webb as the tough sergeant in the US Marine Corps.

ROXY & BROADWAY: "Kiss Them For Me." Cary Grant, Jayne Mansfield and Suzy Parker. Four riotous days of leave.

STAR & METROPOLE: "Enemy From Space." More science-fiction.

HOOVER & LIBERTY: "The Seventh Sin." Eleanor Parker, Bill Travers, George Sanders and Jean Pierre Aumont. A powerful drama with a Hongkong setting.

LEE: "The Bolshoi Ballet." Galina Ulanova at the Covent Garden.

RITZ: "Hellicats Of The Navy." Ronald Regan. US submarine operation.

CAPITOL: "Gunfighters." Randolph Scott in a Western.

ORIENTAL: "The Curse Of Frankenstein."

MAJESTIC: "The Deerslayer." Lex Barker, Rita Moreno in an American classic.

RADIO HONGKONG

6.30 p.m. Not for Square; 6. Time Signal; 6.30. The News; 6.45. Weather Forecast; 6.50. The News; 7.00. The News; 7.15. The News; 7.30. The News; 7.45. The News; 8.00. The News; 8.15. The News; 8.30. The News; 8.45. The News; 9.00. The News; 9.15. The News; 9.30. The News; 9.45. The News; 10.00. The News; 10.15. The News; 10.30. The News; 10.45. The News; 11.00. The News; 11.15. The News; 11.30. The News; 11.45. The News; 12.00. The News; 12.15. The News; 12.30. The News; 12.45. The News; 1.00. The News; 1.15. The News; 1.30. The News; 1.45. The News; 2.00. The News; 2.15. The News; 2.30. The News; 2.45. The News; 3.00. The News; 3.15. The News; 3.30. The News; 3.45. The News; 4.00. The News; 4.15. The News; 4.30. The News; 4.45. The News; 5.00. The News; 5.15. The News; 5.30. The News; 5.45. The News; 6.00. The News; 6.15. The News; 6.30. The News; 6.45. The News; 7.00. The News; 7.15. The News; 7.30. The News; 7.45. The News; 8.00. The News; 8.15. The News; 8.30. The News; 8.45. The News; 9.00. The News; 9.15. The News; 9.30. The News; 9.45. The News; 10.00. The News; 10.15. The News; 10.30. The News; 10.45. The News; 11.00. The News; 11.15. The News; 11.30. The News; 11.45. The News; 12.00. The News; 12.15. The News; 12.30. The News; 12.45. The News; 1.00. The News; 1.15. The News; 1.30. The News; 1.45. The News; 2.00. The News; 2.15. The News; 2.30. The News; 2.45. The News; 3.00. The News; 3.15. The News; 3.30. The News; 3.45. The News; 4.00. The News; 4.15. The News; 4.30. The News; 4.45. The News; 5.00. The News; 5.15. The News; 5.30. The News; 5.45. The News; 6.00. The News; 6.15. The News; 6.30. The News; 6.45. The News; 7.00. The News; 7.15. The News; 7.30. The News; 7.45. The News; 8.00. The News; 8.15. The News; 8.30. The News; 8.45. The News; 9.00. The News; 9.15. The News; 9.30. The News; 9.45. The News; 10.00. The News; 10.15. The News; 10.30. The News; 10.45. The News; 11.00. The News; 11.15. The News; 11.30. The News; 11.45. The News; 12.00. The News; 12.15. The News; 12.30. The News; 12.45. The News; 1.00. The News; 1.15. The News; 1.30. The News; 1.45. The News; 2.00. The News; 2.15. The News; 2.30. The News; 2.45. The News; 3.00. The News; 3.15. The News; 3.30. The News; 3.45. The News; 4.00. The News; 4.15. The News; 4.30. The News; 4.45. The News; 5.00. The News; 5.15. The News; 5.30. The News; 5.45. The News; 6.00. The News; 6.15. The News; 6.30. The News; 6.45. The News; 7.00. The News; 7.15. The News; 7.30. The News; 7.45. The News; 8.00. The News; 8.15. The News; 8.30. The News; 8.45. The News; 9.00. The News; 9.15. The News; 9.30. The News; 9.45. The News; 10.00. The News; 10.15. The News; 10.30. The News; 10.45. The News; 11.00. The News; 11.15. The News; 11.30. The News; 11.45. The News; 12.00. The News; 12.15. The News; 12.30. The News; 12.45. The News; 1.00. The News; 1.15. The News; 1.30. The News; 1.45. The News; 2.00. The News; 2.15. The News; 2.30. The News; 2.45. The News; 3.00. The News; 3.15. The News; 3.30. The News; 3.45. The News; 4.00. The News; 4.15. The News; 4.30. The News; 4.45. The News; 5.00. The News; 5.15. The News; 5.30. The News; 5.45. The News; 6.00. The News; 6.15. The News; 6.30. The News; 6.45. The News; 7.00. The News; 7.15. The News; 7.30. The News; 7.45. The News; 8.00. The News; 8.15. The News; 8.30. The News; 8.45. The News; 9.00. The News; 9.15. The News; 9.30. The News; 9.45. The News; 10.00. The News; 10.15. The News; 10.30. The News; 10.45. The News; 11.00. The News; 11.15. The News; 11.30. The News; 11.45. The News; 12.00. The News; 12.15. The News; 12.30. The News; 12.45. The News; 1.00. The News; 1.15. The News; 1.30. The News; 1.45. The News; 2.00. The News; 2.15. The News; 2.30. The News; 2.45. The News; 3.00. The News; 3.15. The News; 3.30. The News; 3.45. The News; 4.00. The News; 4.15. The News; 4.30. The News; 4.45. The News; 5.00. The News; 5.15. The News; 5.30. The News; 5.45. The News; 6.00. The News; 6.15. The News; 6.30. The News; 6.45. The News; 7.00. The News; 7.15. The News; 7.30. The News; 7.45. The News; 8.00. The News; 8.15. The News; 8.30. The News; 8.45. The News; 9.00. The News; 9.15. The News; 9.30. The News; 9.45. The News; 10.00. The News; 10.15. The News; 10.30. The News; 10.45. The News; 11.00. The News; 11.15. The News; 11.30. The News; 11.45. The News; 12.00. The News; 12.15. The News; 12.30. The News; 12.45. The News; 1.00. The News; 1.15. The News; 1.30. The News; 1.45. The News; 2.00. The News; 2.15. The News; 2.30. The News; 2.45. The News; 3.00. The News; 3.15. The News; 3.30. The News; 3.45. The News; 4.00. The News; 4.15. The News; 4.

TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

With The European Common Market Almost A Reality, Britain Asks: How Will Free Trade Affect Industry?

**Thorough Survey
By Economist
Intelligence Unit**

By RONALD BOXALL

London, Dec. 16. The most comprehensive survey yet of the likely impact on British industry of free trade in Europe has just been published by the Economist Intelligence Unit. And it comes out strongly in favour of British participation in the current movement towards free trade.

Its whole-hearted approval of a free trade area is at variance with the attitude of other organisations which are at least as well qualified to judge.

The E.I.U. survey says, for example, that it is unlikely that Britain could develop any association to counter-balance the common market of the six principal continental countries.

"This is not to say," it goes on, "that the Commonwealth connection will cease to be a source of economic strength to Britain; it will merely not be a source of strength as will the common market to its members."

Yet it goes on immediately to say that the connection between economic and political strength is very close, "they are two faces of the same coin."

Affinity

If this is so—and it undoubtedly is—the question that springs at once to mind is: With whom does Britain have the closest political affinity, the Commonwealth or Europe? If Britain is to concentrate her economic strength where her political ties are strongest, there can be no question about where the effort should be made within the Commonwealth and not outside it.

Again the E.I.U. says competition between Commonwealth products receiving protection and European products is, in fact, less than might be expected. But elsewhere, it says the preferential arrangements for the products of the Colonies of the six common market countries established under the Home Treaty are likely to damage Commonwealth interests and especially the exports of cocoa and coffee from Commonwealth territories in Africa.

Reassurance

Are they to receive equal treatment with the Colonies of the six, or are they to be left out in the cold? Surely there must be an answer to this question before the balance sheet of free trade can be drawn up.

The British Commonwealth Producers' Organisation takes up the question in its journal "Commonwealth Producer." It finds reassurance in ministerial statements that Commonwealth interests will be preserved, but points out that even if Britain is able to reach agreement with the other countries interested in the free trade area on the marketing of agricultural products, there will remain the question of the overseas territories.

"On the issue," it says in a leading article, "which is so vitally important to Britain's dependent territories as well as to some of the self-governing parts of the Commonwealth, a great deal of argument must be expected. At the moment the trade outlook is obscure with falling commodity prices and resulting import restrictions in a number of countries. The symptoms suggest that at least a minor recession, if not a recession of the early 1959's may be approaching. It is to be hoped that in these circumstances the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth governments will consider most carefully how far it is safe to part with power to take action to protect themselves against the worst consequences of a worldwide depression, should we again have to face such a catastrophe."

On the question of the impact of free trade on British industry, the E.I.U. leans heavily towards the negative argument for participation. This argument is that Britain would be worse off in isolation. But one wonders how many present advocates of the free trade area would still be old-fashioned protectionists if it were not for the fact that the common market already exists (on paper anyway), and includes such a powerful competitor as West Germany.

Besides this, the positive arguments for British participation in the free trade area are relatively unimportant. Such arguments are not lacking. But it is doubtful if they would be strong enough by themselves to win many friends for free trade.

Expansion

Those industries which at present expanding fastest are expected to expand still faster in the conditions envisaged by the planners of the free trade area. Certain consumer goods industries such as cotton, rayon and paper are likely to lose. The prospects for industries producing china, footwear and toys "are somewhat doubtful."

But it is significant that even those industries which are expected to gain most are not entirely won over yet. Many of them are concentrated in the Birmingham area, so it is safe to assume that the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce speaks for the majority of them. And that organisation does not display any great enthusiasm for free trade.

From the tone of the comment in its current journal, one gathers that the chamber is not entirely happy about the free trade area plan.

"To some extent," it says, "the doubts of a considerable section of our manufacturing and trading community, as far as they are concerned, would be resolved if safeguards were effectively applied."

There is no evidence there that the manufacturers of Birmingham are sold on free trade.

Nor is there any sign that they are looking forward to a more prosperous era in their gloomy hope that "by adoption and change, the adverse effects of the new venture may be kept to a minimum."—Express Service.

SINGAPORE STOCKS

Singapore, Dec. 17. Brokers today quoted the following stock prices:

Shares	Buyers	Sellers	Sales
BANKS			
HSBC Bank			3 @ 833
East Asia	270		
Union	23 1/2	77	100 @ 75
Shanghai	127 1/2		
Wah Tat	6.10	6.50	500 @ 12 1/2
Bank of China	51		
Bank of Communications	11.40	11.00	1000 @ 11 1/2
LAND, ETC.			
HSBC Land	14.40	14.00	
Yong Kee	23 1/2		
Yong Kee	15.00		
RUBBER			
Latex	1.30	1.37 1/2	
Trust	1.25		
UTILITIES			
Trans	25	22 1/2	200 @ 25
Yong Kee	10.10	10.20	100 @ 10 1/2
C. Light			
Electric	20 1/2	20 1/2	200 @ 20 1/2
Telephone	25 1/2	25 1/2	100 @ 25 1/2
INDUSTRIALS			
Cement	27		
STONES, ETC.			
Dairy	16	16.00	500 @ 16.20
Lane, C.	14	14.30	100 @ 14.50
COTTONS			
Nanyang			
XD			8 1/2

HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE

Our Own Correspondent

Business done on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange this morning amounted to approximately \$101,000. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions were:

Shares	Buyers	Sellers	Sales
BANKS			
HSBC Bank			3 @ 833
East Asia	270		
Union	23 1/2	77	100 @ 75
Shanghai	127 1/2		
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C. Light			
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Besides this, the positive arguments for British participation in the free trade area are relatively unimportant. Such arguments are not lacking. But it is doubtful if they would be strong enough by themselves to win many friends for free trade.

Yet it goes on immediately to say that the connection between economic and political strength is very close, "they are two faces of the same coin."

If this is so—and it undoubtedly is—the question that springs at once to mind is: With whom does Britain have the closest political affinity, the Commonwealth or Europe? If Britain is to concentrate her economic strength where her political ties are strongest, there can be no question about where the effort should be made within the Commonwealth and not outside it.

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Are they to receive equal treatment with the Colonies of the six, or are they to be left out in the cold? Surely there must be an answer to this question before the balance sheet of free trade can be drawn up.

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Stocks Lose Sharply In An Active Wall St. Session

New York, Dec. 16. Stocks lost sharply in moderately active trading today. Railroad shares, leaders on the upside last week, met substantial selling with the whole group down a point or more. Steels set new lows. Tyres had losses ranging to more than 2 points. The autos fell off to new lows. Chemicals declined by 1 to more than 2 points. Shipbuilders joined the decline. Metals dropped following an early rise under the lead of coppers. Corning Glass led its section down with a decline of more than 2 points.

Oil issue, registered losses ranging to 2 points. Airtel's were lower. Practically all the specialties fell off with Zenith down nearly 4 points and Addessograph off 4 points. A long list lost 3 points or more.

Automobile issues hit new lows for the leading issues. The break followed statements the 1958 models were selling poorly. All of the major autos hit new lows with Chrysler off nearly 2 points and Ford off a point.

General Electric fell 2 points to head the industrials in the downward direction. Oil had losses ranging to more than 1 point in Standard Oil (N.J.), Seaboard, Amerasia, Gulf and Texas Co.

Zenith dropped 5 points in the television issues. Polaroid, a leading issue last week, was down more than 3 points at its low.

Jersey Standard featured the market in turnover with a loss of more than a point. Other active issues included Bethlehem, General Motors, U.S. Steel, Polaroid, Chrysler and Bethlehem.

Industrials were off 7.08 to 43.40; utilities were off 3.24 to 97.88; railroads were off 0.22 to 62.17.

Sales in the session were 2,550,000 compared with Friday's 2,310,000 shares. Of the 1,216 issues traded, 771 were lower, 217 higher, New York Stock Exchange volume was 760,000 shares.

Closing Prices

Shares	Buyers	Sellers	Sales
BANKS			
HSBC Bank			3 @ 833
East Asia	270		
Union	23 1/2	77	100 @ 75
Shanghai	127 1/2		
Wah Tat	6.10	6.50	500 @ 12 1/2
Bank of China	51		
Bank of Communications	11.40	11.00	1000 @ 11 1/2
LAND, ETC.			
HSBC Land	14.40	14.00	
Yong Kee	23 1/2		
Yong Kee	15.00		
RUBBER			
Latex	1.30	1.37 1/2	
Trust	1.25		
UTILITIES			
Trans	25	22 1/2	200 @ 25
Yong Kee	10.10	10.20	100 @ 10 1/2
C. Light			
Electric	20 1/2	20 1/2	200 @ 20 1/2
Telephone	25 1/2	25 1/2	100 @ 25 1/2
INDUSTRIALS			
Cement	27		
STONES, ETC.			
Dairy	16	16.00	500 @ 16.20
Lane, C.	14	14.30	100 @ 14.50
COTTONS			
Nanyang			
XD			8 1/2

Prices of metals closed today in sterling per long ton as follows:

Shares	Buyers	Sellers	Sales
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HSBC Bank			3 @ 833
East Asia	270		
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**STERLING
SILVER TIP**

Page 10

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1957.

PI Inauguration Ceremony To Be Quiet

Manila, Dec. 17.
The Philippines austerity programme today cancelled what would have been a lavish inaugural ceremony for President Carlos P. Garcia and Vice-President elect Diosdado Macapagal on December 30.

Malacanang Palace announced that the traditional reception and ball in the evening will be dispensed with in observance of the administration's austerity policy.

Instead, there will be only a simple afternoon reception in the Palace at which Filipino guests were requested to wear the Philippine costume, according to the inauguration committee.

Feature

The committee said the principal feature of the occasion would be conservation of the nation's dollar reserves.

Petrol Station Robbed

A Chinese, armed with a knife, robbed the attendant of the Mobilgas petrol station at Castle Peak Road, Tuen Wan, of \$65 contained in the station's cash box at about 8 o'clock last night.

Exhibition Of Chinese Paintings

An exhibition of Chinese paintings by Professor Pau Shiu-shau and pupils of the Lai Ching Art College was opened by Lady Grantham at St John's Cathedral Hall this morning.

Lady Grantham in declaring the exhibition open expressed appreciation of the work done by Prof. Pau and Mr. Luis Chan, an art teacher, to further the growth of art in Hongkong.

Lady Grantham, who has opened many of the College's exhibitions in the past, was presented with a horizontal scroll of chrysanthemums jointly painted by Prof. Pau and 11 of his pupils. The presentation was made by Miss Agnes Kwok.

Mr. Luis Chan gave an outline of the College's history of 30 years.

The exhibition, which will last until Friday afternoon, consists of more than 150 paintings, including several serpens, by about 50 students.

OTHERS MIGHT FOLLOW

Amman, Dec. 16.
Egyptian Wing Commander Abdul Manim Abdul Raouf, granted political asylum in Jordan yesterday, refused today to say how he escaped because "others might follow in my steps."

Abdul Raouf, who was first identified as an air vice-marshal, was accompanied to his home today by two members of the Moslem Brotherhood after talking with Premier Ibrahim Hashim of Jordan and Foreign Minister Samir Rifai.

The Brotherhood members were also Egyptian escapees and it was presumed that Abdul Raouf is also a member. When asked how he escaped, the wing commander laughed and said, "that's my secret."

NO COMMENT

Although officials here refused to comment on what action would be taken about his offer of his services to Jordan, it is believed he will be allowed to tour Jordanian military units and give lectures.

Raouf said that more than 5,000 people were behind barbed wire in Egypt since Suez, but said that did not include a number of arrested Egyptian military officers.

The officers, who were competent and capable, had been dismissed after the Egyptian revolution, he said.

He said that President Gamal Abdel Nasser's methods of suppressing freedom in Egypt surpassed those of any other dictator.—United Press.

SANDAKAN LIGHT MAKE PROFIT

But Company Decides Against Dividend

Sandakan Light and Power Co. (1922) Ltd made a profit of \$101,575 in 1957 compared with \$99,647 for the previous year, the Chairman, Major S. M. Churn, reported at the annual general meeting this morning.

However, owing to certain commitments and negotiations under way it was decided not to recommend a dividend for the year.

The Chairman said in his speech:

The upward trend in our sales of electricity continued during the year under review and units produced were an increase of some 10 per cent over the figures for last year. The increase in sales was slightly offset by a more than proportionate rise in costs and this is reflected when comparing gross profit on Working Account at \$215,300 with last year's figure of \$192,600, an increase of 11.6 per cent only.

Rise In Costs

This rise in costs was in the main the result of additional fuel costs per unit generated. As I stated at our last yearly meeting, it had been hoped to bring the "Crossley-Premier" diesel alternator into production early in 1957, but due to technical problems this was not possible until last June. The accounts before you today, therefore, do not reflect the savings, both in fuel and operating costs, which may be expected from this valuable production unit.

I am pleased to be able to report, however, that the results for the first quarter of the current financial year show an encouraging improvement over the similar period last year, the average cost of fuel per unit generated having dropped 13.5 per cent whilst sales of electricity continue to rise.

The net profit for the year under review was \$101,575 as compared with \$99,647 for the previous year, an increase of some \$1,900. When making this comparison, however, it should be borne in mind that the 1956/57 accounts had the benefit of an adjustment in depreciation charges of \$15,000; this was due to the write-back of previous over-depreciation resulting from the extension in August 1956 of the concession and land lease by 10 years to 1970, thus permitting the life of certain new assets to be similarly extended for depreciation purposes.

Turning to the Balance Sheet, you will note that stores have increased by some \$25,000 over last year's figure of \$164,400. This, I am glad to say, is only a temporary increase representing the cost of materials ordered for various urgent repair jobs and extensions to our distribution system, which have now been carried out. The item sundry debtors and debit balances mainly represents consumers' accounts for June 1957, since collected. The reserve is considered adequate.

Liabilities

On the liabilities side there is a welcome reduction in the bank overdraft of \$67,500 and in sundry creditors of \$64,400. In accordance with our arrangement with our bankers, the overdraft must be reduced to \$100,000 by the end of this year.

You will also note that a provision of \$35,000 for taxation appears for the first time. In the past we have been able to offset our immediate post-war losses against our liability for North Borneo taxation. These losses, however, have now been fully utilised and we shall have to pay tax on the profits for the year under review at the very high rate of 40 per cent, the current tax on company's profits in North Borneo.

I do not think the accounts call for any further comment except, as you will doubtless have already noted, no provision has been made for the payment of a dividend. Before enlarging on this point, I would like to say a few words on events which have been taking place in Sandakan since our last meeting.

In January of this year a corporation called the North Borneo Electricity Board was established by the North Borneo Government, with powers to acquire the existing electrical installations owned by that Government and also to

negotiate for the acquisition of other electrical installations in the Colony of North Borneo.

The North Borneo Electricity Board are interested in acquiring our undertaking and, at their suggestion, your directors agreed that an independent valuation of our assets be made in order to serve as a basis for further negotiations on a take-over price. The cost of this valuation is to be borne equally by the North Borneo Electricity Board and this Company and it has been agreed that it is undertaken without commitment to its acceptance by either side. It is hoped that the actual valuation will be finished by the end of this month.

Shareholders may rest assured that their interests will be closely watched and any concrete proposals arising from the valuation circulated to them at the earliest possible moment for their fullest consideration.

In view of these negotiations, therefore, and bearing in mind our existing commitments to our bankers and the need to find cash for our tax liabilities, your Directors have reluctantly decided that it would not be in the best interests of the Company to recommend a dividend for the year ended June 30, 1957. That the results achieved justify a dividend cannot be gainsaid, but it is considered that this would be a most inopportune time to burden the Company with further loans, as would be necessary if a distribution were to be made.

Congratulations

Finally, I am pleased to report that once again, despite the demands made upon it, the plant has operated continuously with a minimum of shutdowns, most of which being the result of external causes such as falling trees. The staff at all grades have worked extremely well and are to be congratulated on the results obtained.

Woman Injured By Cyclist

A 40-year-old Chinese woman, Chung Hop, living at No. 273, Tai Nam Street, second floor, was knocked down and seriously injured by a cyclist in Yon Chow Street, near Fuk Wing Street, at about 7.15 p.m. yesterday.

The injured woman was sent to Kowloon Hospital for treatment.

Two Suspects Detained

The Police have detained two men on suspicion of theft.

A fountain pen was stolen from a pedestrian in Queen's Road Central, near Hillier Street, shortly after 3 p.m. yesterday.

A sum of money was stolen from the pocket of a Chinese at the Yamaid Theatre, Public Square Street, at about 10 o'clock last night.

Junk Attacked Off Colony

Macao, Dec. 17.
The Chinese woman owner was slightly injured and 500 Hongkong dollars worth of cargo was lost overboard when a junk was attacked with small arms by an unidentified boat last Sunday about half way between Hongkong and Macao, usually reliable sources reported today on the junk's return from the British Colony.

The sources said the attack, believed made by pirates, occurred near Tai-O.

No other details were so far available.

This was the second attack on a cargo-carrying junk between Hongkong and Macao within a week.

Last Thursday the British-registered 42-ton freighter World Number One was fired on with small arms by two unidentified motor junks near an island group outside British territorial waters, but managed to evade its attackers after returning the fire with carbines.—Reuter.

The glass covers of the rear lamps of a private car parked in Ship Street, Wanai, were stolen on Sunday night.

A Masterpiece of the Distiller's Art



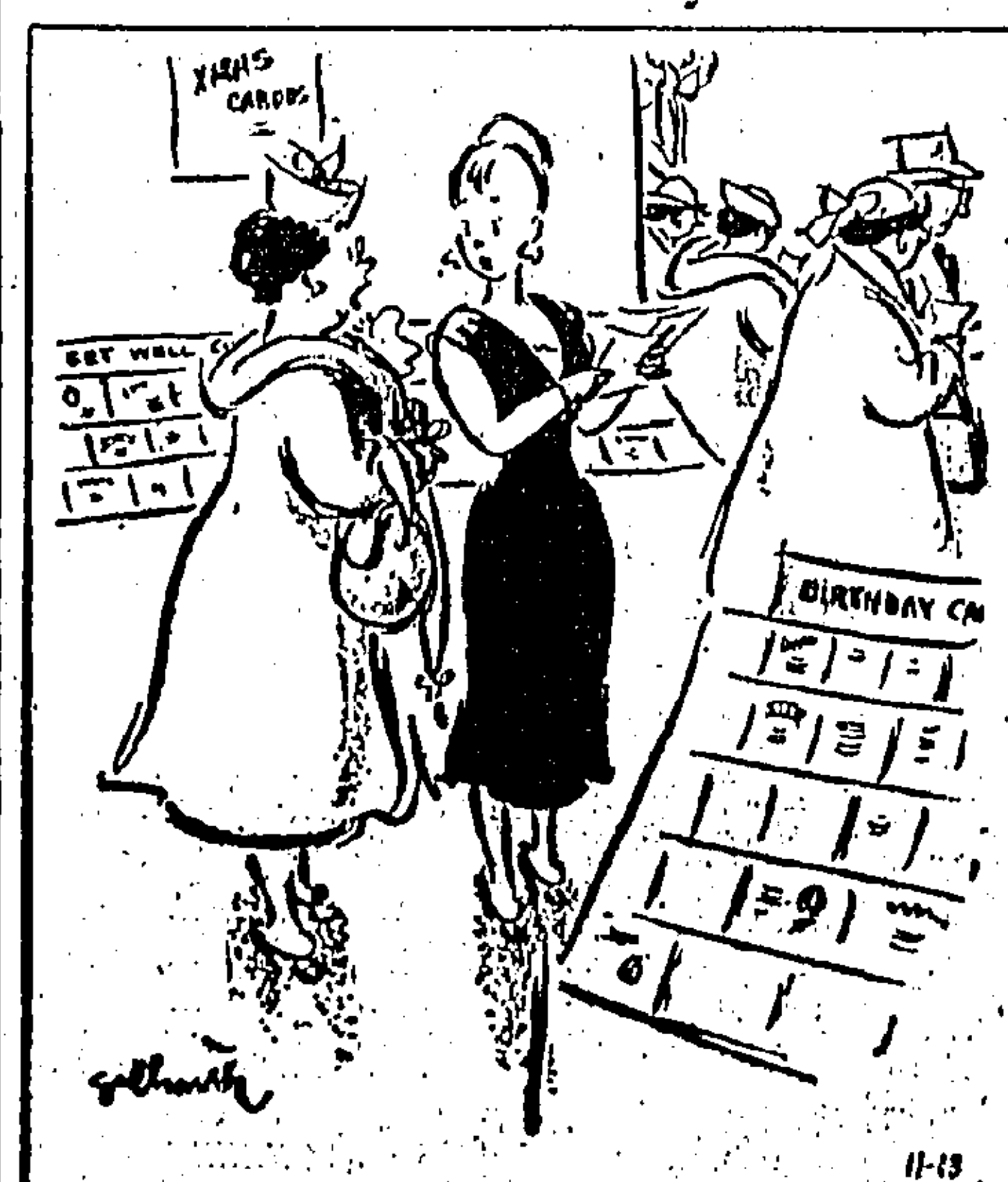
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SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"Do you have a get-well card that suggests she's not as sick as she thinks she is?"

Printed and published by FERN FERN for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3 Wyndham Street, City of Victoria in the Colony of Hongkong.